DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

UK, France mulling N-weapon transfer to Ukraine: Russia

Page 13

Brook 100 puts England into T20 World Cup semis

Page 16

SHR™ Sweet Home Realty
PRM/KA/RERA/1268/378/PR/161224/007302

BADAVANE

DC CONVERTED APPROVED
APPROVED RERA & DTCP
LOAN UP TO 80% FUNDING
Immediate Registration

24X7 SECURITY
UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE FACILITY
ELECTRICITY
WELL PLANNED PARKS
WATER SUPPLY

~~₹1499/- sqft~~
₹999/- PER SQ.FT.
1sqft = 0.09290304 Sqm

LOAN PROVIDED BY :
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಧರ್ಮದೃಷ್ಟಿ
LIC
TATA CAPITAL
HINDUJA

BENGALURU NORTH
Free site visit
Scan For location

+91 99000 11883 | +91 99000 11887

SHR™ Sweet Home Realty

PRM/KA/RERA/1268/378/PR/161224/007302

| IMMEDIATE REGISTRATION | READY FOR CONSTRUCTION |

| DC CONVERTED | DTCP APPROVED | RERA APPROVED |

| 80% BANK LOAN APPROVED |

30 X 40, 30 X 50 & 40 X 60
ALL PLOT SIZES ARE AVAIABLE

AMENITIES

- CONCRETE ROADS
- WELL PLANNED UTILITY AREAS
- 5 YEARS MAINTENANCE
- PARKS CLUBHOUSE & PLAY AREA
- 24X7 SECURITY
- WELL PLANNED WATER & DRAINAGE SYSTEM

IN VERY CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES, HOSPITALS & FUEL STATIONS.

NH 275 BENGALURU - MYSURU EXPRESSWAY ATTACHED

VERY CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CRICKET STADIUM AND KARNATAKA FILM CITY

MYSURU

Free site Visit

Scan For location

OWN YOUR DREAM PLOT TODAY !

OFFER PRICE

~~₹3,499/-~~

₹2,999/-

(1 Sqft = 0.09290304 Sqm)

+91 99000 98654 / +91 99001 31692

www.sweethomerealtyindia.com
info@sweethomerealtyindia.com

Bengaluru Wednesday, February 25, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 56 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Youth Cong prez Chib arrested

Police invoke charges of rioting against those held for shirtless protest

Page 10

Sports

Bucknor regrets wrong decision against Tendulkar after 22 years P.15

Nation

Jaya aide Sasikala announces launch of new party P.10

Nation

Navy to commission INS Anjadip P.11

World

Canada moves to revoke Rana's citizenship P.13

Bengal SIR: SC okays using Odisha, J'khand judges

Court permits ECI to publish final poll roll on Feb 28

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed the Calcutta High Court to deploy civil judges and also make requisition of judicial officers from neighbouring Jharkhand and Odisha to deal with 50 lakh claims and objections in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi also permitted the ECI to publish the final electoral roll on February 28 and clarified that the poll panel can issue supplementary lists as the verification process proceeds.

The bench felt that the concerns of both sides, the West Bengal government and the Election Commission of India, in respect of the ongoing SIR exercise are equally important, and the court needs to ensure the purity and sanctity of the electoral roll.

It said that the Calcutta High Court can deploy civil judges with at least three years of experience to expedite the SIR.

The court's order came as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court had apprised the Supreme Court that, even with 294 serving and retired district and additional district judges deployed to scrutinise voter documents flagged under the 'logical discrepancy' and 'unmapped' categories, the exercise would require nearly 80 days to cover 50 lakh cases.

During the hearing, the bench said, going by the calculation of the Chief Justice of the High Court, even if one officer decides 215 objections in a day, it will take 80 days.

"All civil judges also. Serving judicial officers with three years' service. We are permitting to utilise their services. That is one way out. We are also permitting to take on board retired or serving judicial officers of neighbouring states, Odisha and Jharkhand. We are also requesting the chief justices of both these high courts," the bench said.

Raising the issue of language, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee, for one of the petitioners, said if the judges were to come from different states, they would not understand Bengali.

"Let's go by history – part of Jharkhand and part of Odisha, were part of Bengal, at one point," the bench said, adding people still understand the local dialect and have at least some familiarity with it.

On behalf of the ECI, senior advocate D S Naidu said they are publishing the 'final' list on February 28. He pointed out that there is no time frame for the supplementary list and the exercise can continue until the last date of nomination.

The bench said the ECI can publish its list, the exercise can continue, and a supplementary list will be published with a deeming clause stating it was published on February 28.

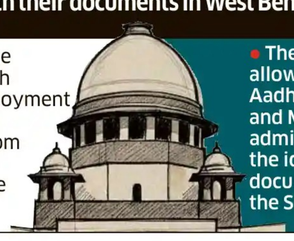
▸ Bengal SIR, Page 7

WHAT THE SC SAID

- An SC bench took note of a letter by the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice that said 250 district judges deployed in the SIR will take around 80 days to deal with the claims and objections

People wait with their documents in West Bengal. PTI file

- Taking note of the situation, the bench permitted the deployment of civil judges and judicial officers from Jharkhand and Odisha to complete the process
- The court allows the Aadhaar Card and Madhyamik admit card as the identity document for the SIR exercise



New US tariffs to come in at lower 10% rate

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The United States imposed a new tariff from Tuesday of 10% on all goods not covered by exemptions, the US Customs and Border Protection said, the rate first announced by President Donald Trump on Friday rather than the 15% he promised a day later.

Reacting to the US Supreme Court ruling that threw out tariffs it deemed were illegally justified on grounds of an emergency, Trump initially announced a new temporary global tariff of 10%. He said on Saturday he would increase it to 15%.

But in a notice described as intended to "provide guidance regarding the February 20 Presidential Proclamation", CBP said that, aside from products covered by exemptions, imports would "be subject to an additional ad valorem rate of 10%". The move added to confusion, with no explanation offered in the notice for why the lower rate had been used.

However, another White House official said on Tuesday that the administration is working to increase the rate to 15% from the 10% rate. The official said Trump has had "no change of heart" on his desire for a 15% tariff rate.

The Section 122 law allows the President to impose the new duties for up to 150 days to address "large and serious" balance-of-payments deficits.

Sensex plunges 1,000 pts

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1% on Tuesday, dragged down by heavy losses in IT stocks amid concerns over AI-led disruption and renewed trade-related uncertainties. BSE Sensex plummeted 1,068.74 points.
Details on Page 14

Kerala is Keralam now as Centre clears name change

Cabinet decision following resolution passed by Kerala to rename state

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Kerala will soon be called 'Keralam', after the Union government set in motion the process of renaming the state.

The decision, which comes months ahead of the Assembly election, was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While Kerala government's proposal has been accepted, West Bengal's demand for changing the state's name to 'Bangla' in Bengali, 'Bengal' in English and 'Bangali' in Hindi was raised in 2018, has not been accepted by the Union government as it is opposed to having three names in different languages.

The Cabinet's decision came following a resolution passed by the Kerala Assembly on June 24, 2024, which said, "The name of our state is 'Keralam' in Malayalam. States were formed on the basis of language on the first day of November 1956. The 'Kerala Piravi Day' is also on the first day of November."

Earlier, Puducherry, Uttarakhand and Odisha had seen their names changed from Pondicherry, Uttaranchal and Orissa, respectively.

▸ Keralam, Page 7

HOW STATES ARE RENAMED

Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to form a new state, increase/diminish the area, alter boundaries, or change the name of any state

- The President's recommendation is required before a Bill can be introduced in Parliament
- The President usually refers the Bill to the state legislature concerned to express its views
- Parliament is not bound by the views of the state legislature

'Kerala Story 2' depicts state in wrong light: HC

The Kerala HC on Tuesday observed that 'The Kerala Story 2 - Goes Beyond' depicts a state like Kerala in a wrong light. It also observed that claiming the film is based on true facts can lead to communal tensions.
Details on Page 11

HPV vaccine campaign this week to protect 1.25 cr girls

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After years of trials, the Union government is set to launch a special nationwide HPV vaccination campaign this week to protect young girls from cervical cancer, which is the second most common cancer among Indian women.

A single dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine would be administered to 14-year-old girls, sources said here on Tuesday, noting that 1.15 crore girls would be vaccinated every year.

This will be a special campaign as the vaccine will not be part of the universal immunisation programme.

The girls' age will be decided on the basis of any government identity proof such as birth certificate, Aadhaar or ration card. The vaccine to be administered will be Merck's Gardasil.

India's cervical cancer burden is one of the world's highest with nearly 80,000 new cases and 42,000 deaths reported each year as late detection and low screening drive up the numbers.

A quadrivalent vaccine, Merck's Gardasil protects against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause over 80% cervical cancer cases in India, as well as types 6 and 11

Sources said HPV vaccines were among the most extensively studied vaccines, with evidence demonstrating 93–100% effectiveness in preventing cervical cancer.

A quadrivalent vaccine, Gardasil protects against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause over 80% cervical cancer cases in India, as well as types 6 and 11.

The vaccine does not cause HPV infection, and has an excellent safety record, supported by more than 500 million doses administered globally since its introduction in 2006.

Global and Indian scientific evidence confirms that a single dose provides robust and durable protection when administered to girls in the recommended age group.

The launching of the HPV vaccine campaign will happen two years after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in her 2024 interim budget speech that the government would encourage HPV vaccination for girls of 9-14 years of age.

▸ HPV vaccine, Page 7

Tension in Shivamogga as 16-yr-old killed; 7 minors detained

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: An SSLC student died in a fight with his classmates over a cricket match at Uragadur in the city on Monday night. The incident led to tension, following which one KSRP platoon and 10 police personnel have been deployed.

Seven minors were detained on Tuesday in connection with the incident.

According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Sanket (16), son of Kumar, a labourer.

Sanket was returning home from school after a special class on Monday night when a group of boys were arguing over a fight that had taken place during a recent cricket tournament.

When the group tried to attack Sanket's friend, Sanket tried to intervene. The boys attacked Sanket, who collapsed. His parents rushed him to the hospital, where he was declared brought dead. It is learnt that they beat him on his chest with their hands.

SP B Nikhil said the suspects' blood samples have been sent for tests on suspicion that they may have consumed drugs. As residents protested demanding compensation, MLA S N Channabasappa and former DyCM K S Eshwarappa supported them. DC Prabhulinga Kavalikatti said the government has announced a compensation of Rs 15 lakh.

MASSIVE PROTEST

Police lathicharge protesters demanding the filling of vacant government posts, in Dharwad on Tuesday. Thousands of students and government job aspirants took part in the protests. DH PHOTO

Relief for Ranveer, but HC says can't be 'loose-tongued'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court granted interim relief to Hindi actor Ranveer Singh in a case related to mimicking a deity portrayed in the Kannada film Kantara: Chapter 1, but not before reprimanding him.

"If you are a superstar, no worries. Whenever a statement comes from a particular region, you can't be loose-tongued. You have definitely hurt the sentiments of people," the high court orally observed, before ordering the state not to take coercive steps till the matter is heard on Monday.

Singh had moved the high court challenging the case registered by the High Grounds police in Bengaluru for mimicking female deity Chamundi Daiva portrayed by Kannada actor Rishab Shetty.

Ranveer Singh

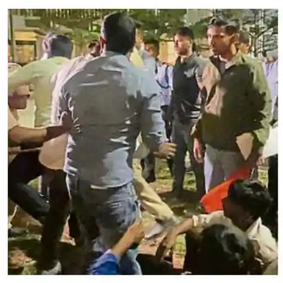
"You (petitioner) were speaking of a deity. If you don't know what it is, you should study and then speak. You can't call it a female ghost. That is not correct. You have no right to hurt anybody's religious sentiments. Will your apology take back all the words and actions? The Internet never forgets," Justice M Nagaprasanna orally said.

▸ Ranveer, Page 7

Quickly

DGCA takes action against VSR Ventures

After finding several compliance lapses, aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday directed the grounding of four aircraft of VSR Ventures, whose plane crashed at Baramati last month, killing Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others.
Details on Page 10



its Sarjapur Road campus, vandalised property, and allegedly assaulted a student and security guards while protesting a discussion on the Kunan Poshpura mass rape.
Details on Page 3

Coolant leak behind Andhra milk deaths

Andhra Pradesh officials suspect coolant leakage from a chilling tanker caused the milk adulteration that killed four in Rajamahendravaram. Preliminary tests confirmed that ethylene glycol, a toxic cooling agent, leaked into the supply.
Details on Page 10

Automatic land mutation launched

The Karnataka government launched an automatic property mutation service on Tuesday, as part of the initiative to simplify the services provided by the Revenue Department. It was launched by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.
Details on Page 4

University campus vandalised

Tension gripped Azim Premji University on Tuesday after members of the ABVP barged into

Economic growth likely above 8%

India's GDP is estimated to grow at 8.1% in the October-December 2025 quarter, maintaining above 8% expansion for the two consecutive quarters, on the back of strong consumption, SBI Research said on Tuesday.
Details on Page 14

TRASH HANDLING

Waste mgmt body seeks 100 acres near B'luru for new landfill

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the row over garbage disposal, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has decided to look for private lands near the city to dispose of the waste.

The development follows BSWML's year-long futile search for government land to establish processing facilities to manage the city's waste.

"We are looking for 100 acres of private land within a 40-km radius for garbage dumping," Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said recently, promising to compensate landowners in cash as per the 2023 Act.

He added that preference will be given to land where human habitation is minimal, especially next to forests and mountains.

Shivakumar appealed to a group of 5-6 landowners or developers to provide land for the purpose. "We will build a separate link road to the area so that garbage trucks do not use village roads," he said, seeking land along Kolar Road, Magadi Road, Tumakuru Road, Kanakapura Road, etc.

The search for land for establishing a waste-processing plant is not new.

In September 2024, the BSWML had established a two-member committee to identify large parcels of government land to establish an integrated solid waste management project, which would include processing plants.

Bellahalli landfill on the outskirts of Bengaluru. DH PHOTO

The committee had identified land in Doddaballapur, Harohalli, Gollahalli on Bannerghatta Road, Mandur in Mahadevapura, etc.

While Mandur was ruled out as villagers had protested against waste dumping in the past, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) refused to part with land in Harohalli.

Speaking to reporters on February 21, Shivakumar said plans were afoot to acquire the Doddaballapur land, which belongs to Terra Firma, a private firm. He also indicated that the Gollahalli land would be acquired, but added that some officers had tampered with the revenue documents.

BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda did not respond to phone calls for a comment.

Dinesh Gundu Rao

New Corporation First Grade College opens in Gandhinagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The newly constructed Corporation First Grade College in Gandhinagar was inaugurated on Tuesday.

The building was constructed by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation under the Amruth Nagarothana scheme at a cost of Rs 4 crore.

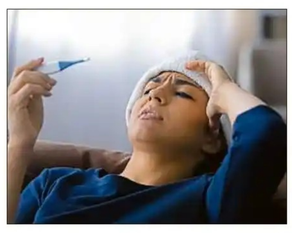
Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao, who inaugurated the facility, urged the public to make full use of it.

"From LKG to PG, the institution offers comprehensive educational support. Students should take advantage of the facilities provided," he said.

Rao added that there is a demand to introduce BCA and MCA courses at the college and directed officials to work towards securing the necessary approvals.

Doctors flag spike in flu-like illnesses amid changing weather

H3N2, RSV cases rise; prolonged cough reported



Doctors advised maintaining hand hygiene and wearing masks, especially while travelling on public transport, to curb the spread of infection.

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the city transitioning rapidly from winter to summer, doctors are reporting a surge in Influenza-Like Illnesses (ILI), particularly cases of H3N2, a subtype of influenza.

Most patients are presenting with fever, dry cough and throat infections, doctors said. They added that this year, symptoms appear to be lasting longer than usual, with some patients experiencing post-viral dry cough for over six weeks due to airway inflammation and bronchial hyperreactivity.

Dr Shilpa Singi, Lead Consultant, Internal Medicine, at a private hospital, said, "There is definitely a significant increase in cases. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections are considerable, and H3N2 influenza cases have also risen."

Dr Siri Kamath, Consultant in Internal Medicine, said patients with H3N2 and H1N1 infections, as well as bacterial infections, have required hospital admission.

"Immediate medical attention is necessary if fever is accompanied by breathlessness," she said.

Covid-19 ruled out

However, doctors ruled out Covid-19 as the primary cause for the recent spike in cases.

Dr Brunda MS, Senior Consultant in Internal Medicine, said seasonal viral infections and upper respiratory tract infections are linked to temperature fluctuations, allergies and environmental exposure.

"We advise testing for patients with prolonged fever, breathing difficulty or high-risk medical conditions to ensure early detection," she said.

Highlighting the link between weather, pollution and illness, Dr Shilpa said fluctuating temperatures — cold, dry mornings followed by warm afternoons — increase vulnerability to allergies and infections, while pollution contributes to airway inflammation.

Dr Kiran Chandrashekar, a general physician, said children, the elderly, and those with low immunity or pre-existing respiratory conditions are particularly vulnerable.

He also noted that the infections appear to be highly contagious, with multiple cases reported within families.

Mercury rises in city; summer to set in from March 1: IMD

BENGALURU, DHNS: Day temperatures may be steadily rising in Bengaluru, but the India Meteorological Department (IMD) says summer has not set in yet.

The IMD has predicted the onset of summer from March 1, with temperatures expected to rise up to 39°C this summer.

While February temperatures are slowly rising in Bengaluru, averaging around 31°C, IMD Senior Scientist CS Patil clarified that the summer season is set to begin on March 1.

On Tuesday, the Bengaluru city observatory recorded a maximum temperature of 32.8°C, 1°C above normal.

Light showers are expected from March 15 onwards in the city, with heavier rain, thunder and lightning likely in April and May. FILE PHOTO

HAL Airport recorded 32.1°C, 0.8°C above normal, and Kempegowda International Airport recorded 32.7°C, 1.4°C above normal.

"It is predicted that while March will see a peak of 35-36°C, April and May are expected to get hotter, reaching a high of 39°C," Patil said. He added that it is unlikely for the city to reach 40°C this year.

The highest recorded temperature in Bengaluru in April is 39.2°C in 2016, and in May it is 38.9°C in 1931.

However, this year, Karnataka is expected to have an 'above normal' summer due to the ongoing El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phase and its interaction with the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

The IMD has advised citizens to stay cautious during hot and dry spells in the coming days and has issued alerts in north interior and coastal Karnataka.

"But unlike other parts of Karnataka, Bengaluru is not likely to witness any heatwaves," Patil said.

He added that the city will see pre-monsoon rains early, compared to other parts of Karnataka, which will help cool down temperatures.

"Light showers are expected from March 15 onwards. April and May are likely to see heavier rain with thunder and lightning," Patil elaborated.

Police arrest suspect in bank, ATM break-in attempts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have arrested a man who allegedly attempted to rob a bank and an ATM in central Bengaluru.

Hasan Abdul Sab, 36, a native of Koliwada, Dharwad, was tracked down within 24 hours of the incident, police said.

Police said an attempt was made to commit theft at a bank during the night in the Seshadripuram police station limits. Similarly, in the jurisdiction of the Halasuru Gate police station, an attempt was made to break open an ATM and commit theft.

In connection with these incidents, cases were registered at both police stations, a statement said.

"To detect these cases, five special teams comprising officers and staff were formed. Within 24 hours of the incidents, one accused was traced, secured and taken into custody for interrogation. It has been ensured that such incidents do not create fear or insecurity among the public," the statement said.

A detailed inquiry is being conducted regarding the background of the accused, including whether he had been involved in any previous cases.

In the coming days, appropriate measures will be taken to enhance security by coordinating with bank officials and security personnel, police added.

Residents use AQI data to flag pollution from waste burning

BENGALURU, DHNS

A residents' welfare association (RWA) in Bagalur village near the Kempegowda International Airport has used crowd-sourced Air Quality Index (AQI) data to draw the attention of authorities to the illegal burning of garbage that led to alarming pollution levels in the area.

Over the past year, residents of Assetz Earth & Essence, a private row-house community in Hosahalli, have complained to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) about the indiscriminate burning of garbage, including plastic, in open areas adjacent to their community two to three times a month.

However, emails to the KSPCB headquarters and repeated follow-up calls failed to bring immediate relief.

"Officials at the headquarters promptly forwarded the emails to the regional environment officer in Yelahanka. After that, nothing happened, even as breathing became difficult for several days," a resident told *DH*.

The association then approached a private firm that provides crowd-sourced AQI data to monitor local pollution. While AQI levels above 100 are considered unhealthy, data from the area showed that on six days in January, the AQI exceeded 160, with the lowest recorded level at 119.

KSPCB steps in

On February 9, the KSPCB wrote to the Bagalur Panchayat Development Officer, flagging the unscientific and illegal burning of solid waste within its jurisdiction.

JN Yogananda, Environment Officer, Yelahanka, who inspected the area and communicated with the panchayat, said the initial step was to alert authorities to the health risks.

"Burning garbage mixed with plastic releases dioxins and furans, which are linked to cancer. We will issue notices if action is not taken in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules," he said.

An official from the gram panchayat said Bagalur was known for scientific waste management practices. "Several contractors are allegedly bringing garbage from outside and burning it in open grounds. We will look into the matter," he said.

North Corporation designates 70 feeding spots for street dogs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has identified 70 locations as official designated feeding spots for street dogs within its jurisdiction.

BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said the spots were identified according to the guidelines of the Supreme Court, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

"This will create a structured and regulated system of feeding that does not cause inconvenience to the public," he said.

BNCC identified the spots after consulting ward-level officials, local feeders, veterinary officers, and animal husbandry department staff. "Feeding should not be done on main roads, near hospitals, schools or crowded public places. The person feeding is responsible for maintaining cleanliness of the area after feeding. Causing harm or harassing dogs is illegal," the BNCC statement said.

Man in custody attempts suicide at police station

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 36-year-old man arrested in a criminal case allegedly attempted suicide inside the Electronics City police station on Sunday by swallowing a hanger hook.

Police said he had threatened investigators and demanded to be let off without any legal action.

Ravi Prasad MP, a resident of Basavanapura, was taken into custody for cheating and assault involving a woman dentist.

During police custody, as officers were preparing to take him for medical examination, he went to the toilet, removed a hanger hook from the wall and collected bangle pieces from a flowerpot to swallow. He then returned to the cell.

Meanwhile, police noticed him and asked what he was chewing. He then threatened to reveal the details only if officers assured him he would be released without legal action or further inquiry.

Sensing danger, police rushed him to hospital, where he recovered after being administered first aid. He was later remanded to judicial custody.

The Electronics City police have registered a case in connection with the incident and launched further investigations.

A senior police officer said Prasad, a Maharashtra native who worked as a civil contractor, had befriended the woman after taking up renovation work at her dental clinic.

Since September, he had been harassing her and sending threats and making sexual advances, despite her getting married.

Upset over his harassment, the dentist filed a police complaint against him on February 10, officers said.

32 seized vehicles gutted in fire at police station

BENGALURU, DHNS: Thirty-two seized vehicles, including a car, an autorickshaw and several two-wheelers, were gutted in a fire that broke out on the premises of the Banaswadi police station on Tuesday.

No casualties or injuries were reported.

Police said the blaze was noticed around 12.30 pm in a corner of the premises where impounded vehicles had been parked by traffic and law and order personnel. Within minutes, the fire spread rapidly, engulfing several vehicles nearby.

Rescue personnel douse the flames that broke out at the Banaswadi police station.

Muniraju, a head constable, alerted Fire and Emergency Services personnel, and two fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames.

A graveyard adjacent to the station premises is suspected to be the source of the blaze, with sparks from the area allegedly triggering the fire.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

National science conference: 'Biosphere 2026: Science for a Sustainable Planet'; BM Srinivasaiah Memorial Hall, BMS College of Architecture, Basavanagudi; 10 am.

Symposium: On issues of state government retired employees and senior citizens and felicitation ceremony for retired employees above 75 years of age; Chiranjeevi Singh to attend; State Government Retired Employees Association; State Government Employees Bhavan, Cubbon Park; 10.30 am.

RELIGIOUS

Temple inauguration: Sri Rukmini Satyabhama Sametha Venugopalaswamy Anjaneyaswamy and Ganapati temple; Anjanapura, BDA Layout 3rd Phase; Mangalavadya Vedaparayana; 6.30 pm.

The laptops and other equipment seized from the call centre located in Jayanagar 9th Block.
PHOTO: KARNATAKA CYBER COMMAND CENTRE

Fake investment racket busted in Jayanagar; 2 held

Victims lured with promises of stock market profits

BENGALURU, DHNS

Cybercrime police have busted a fake investment racket operating from Jayanagar 9th Block and arrested two alleged masterminds, officials said on Tuesday.

The accused were running the scam through a call centre and targeting citizens with promises of stock market profits.

Kumawat Yogesh Amararam from Surat and Imran from Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi were allegedly operating from a call centre at Multiwave Business Solutions Private Limited in Jayanagar.

Based on specific inputs, investigators raided the premises and busted the scam, officials said.

The Central Cybercrime police station received complaints that the call centre was contacting citizens and promising profits for investing in the stock market. Customer care executives were persuading citizens to route investments through them.

Police found an elaborate set up at the call centre.

"The suspects had hired 15 out-of-state executives who worked from the call centre and contacted members of the public, convincing them that they would earn profits if they invested in the stock market," the Cyber Command Centre of the Karnataka police said.

"Believing this, the public responded positively. The suspects provided a bank account and, under the pretext of investment, got money transferred online. After receiving the money, they would switch off their mobile phones."

Investigators traced the location of a call received by one of the victims to BTM Layout. They identified the IMEI number and found the Gmail ID linked to it. They found that the Gmail ID belonged to Amararam. Based on the mobile location, he was tracked down and found operating the call centre in Jayanagar.

"The investigation has revealed that the suspects obtained stock market client data through Google, procured bank accounts from other states, and acquired SIM cards in the names of other people.

"Further, the money cheated from the public was transferred to several fake or mule bank accounts and then withdrawn through ATMs by their associates. The withdrawn money was shared among themselves," the Cyber Command Centre said.

Investigators seized 31 mobile phones, 13 laptops, 16 SIM cards, letterhead of MS Multiwave Business Solutions Private Limited, and sheets containing names and mobile numbers of victims.

The operation was overseen by Pronab Mohanty, DGP, Cyber Command.

Haj pilgrims' screening, vaccination by March 28

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health Department has directed that vaccination and medical screening of pilgrims undertaking Haj be completed by March 28.

The District Reproductive and Child Health Officer is the nodal officer to ensure completion of activities in line with the Standard Operating Procedure.

With 3,991 people to be screened in Bengaluru, arrangements will be made at Victoria Hospital, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institution, KC General Hospital, Jayanagar General Hospital, Sir CV Raman General Hospital, KR Puram General Hospital, and Yelahanka General Hospital to ensure timely completion of the process.

Hygiene lapses: Hotel fined Rs 75k

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru City South Corporation has imposed a fine of Rs 75,000 on Al-Faaz Hotel in Gurappanapalya for multiple violations, including unhygienic conditions, failure to segregate waste, and use of banned single-use plastic.

The hotel had failed to segregate wet and dry waste, in violation of municipal solid waste management rules. Authorities also found single-use plastic items in use.

In a press note, the corporation reiterated that all hotels and commercial establishments in the city must strictly adhere to waste segregation norms and adopt eco-friendly practices.

Women run, reflect & reconnect at 'Running into Art' event

BENGALURU, DHNS

'Running into Art' was hosted on February 22.

Ahead of International Women's Day on March 8, Sisters in Sweat (SIS) and the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) collaborated to organise 'Running into Art', a 3K women-only community run on February 22.

Following the run, led by SIS co-founder Swetha Subbiah, participants attended a curated walkthrough at MAP, visiting the museum's second permanent exhibition, 'Beneath the Turning Sky', which features over 60 artworks.

"SIS x MAP was created to celebrate movement in all its forms. We wanted women to experience the energy of running together and then engage with art in a way that encourages reflection and connection," said Swetha.

The run was organised as a precursor to a larger Women's Day celebration scheduled for March 8 at Orion Mall, Rajajinagar. The Sistra Run event will include a non-timed 2.5K run, along with timed 5K and 10K runs.

For details, visit @thesistrarun on Instagram.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES	
Maximum	32.0°C
Minimum	19.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	43%
Sunset (Feb 25)	6:28 pm
Sunrise (Feb 26)	6:38 am
Moonrise	11:34 am
Moonset	--:--

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

ELECTRICAL WORKS

Tender Notice No. DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-62-25-26; Date: 20-02-2026. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.** DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-62-25-26; **Name of Work**: Electrical Works Estimate in connection with installation of Solar Powered AI-Based Wagon Door & Seal Checking Points at 17 locations in NFR. **Advertised Value:** ₹27,15,685/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹54,300/-. **E-tenders will be closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 16-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy.CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Tender No. mentioned below due to open on 17.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No., Tender Notice No. & Name of work** are as follows : **1. ST-CKP-OT-25-26-120**. Provision of Auto Media Change over System for SSDACs & UFSBI over Chakradharpur Division. **Tender Value** : ₹ 1,94,99,136.40, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,47,500/-. **2. ST-CKP-OT-25-26-121.** Replacement of leftover Analog Axle Counter with Digital Axle Counter over Chakradharpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 16,67,83,682.71, **Earnest Money** : ₹ 9,83,900/-. **Completion period:** 06 months for Sl. No. 1 and 15 months for Sl. No. 2. The Tender at Tender No.-121 will be on "Two Packet System" and Tender No. 120 will be on "Single Packet System". The tender details can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in e-Tendering. e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost.

(PR-1231)

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. : O/AC/T/147-149/25-26 (Open), dated 20.02.2026. E-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Pin-713301 for the following works : **Sl. No. 1, Case No.:** O-AC-T-147-25-26. **Name of the work :** Open tender for infrastructure development of Divisional Railway Hospital in the jurisdiction of AEN/HQ/ASN under Sr. DEN/1/ASN. **Tender value :** ₹ 1,53,74,929.02. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,26,900/-. **Sl. No. 2, Case No.:** O-AC-T-148-25-26. **Name of the work :** Open tender for Improvement of Dumka station yard for track standardization **Tender value :** ₹ 78,50,916.50. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,57,000/-. **Sl. No. 3, Case No.:** O-AC-T-149-25-26. **Name of the work :** Open tender for Shifting of Gate Lodge by construction of New Gate Lodge to avoid SOD infringement including replacement of old, dilapidated gate lodge along with improvement of level crossing road surface in STN-JAJ main line MDP-GRD & JSME-BDME branch line. **Tender value :** ₹ 1,01,94,897.33. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,01,000/-. **Completion period for the work :** 09 months for Sl. No. 1, 06 months for Sl. No. 2 and 12 months for Sl. No. 3. **Date and time of closing:** 18.03.2026 at 12.00 hrs. for each. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in

ASN-364/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Flying Institute
A Society Regd. Under Department of Cabinet Secretariat & Vigilance (Civil Aviation Division)
State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail-jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in

Ref. No: - A/c-GT/JFI/69/2025-112 /Ranchi, Date:-20.02.2026

e-Global Tender Cancellation Notice

e-Global Tender issued through EoI Ref No- **A/c-GT/JFI/69/2025/43, dated:20.01.2026** for purchase of **Brand-New Two-Seater Trainee Aircraft in 1st Phase, Initially 04 aircraft for training purpose. (P.R. No-371204)** for Jharkhand Flying Institute is here by cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

This e-Global Tender Cancellation Notice is also available on the website www. jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Capt. S.P. Sinha
Managing Director
Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR 373500 (Civil Aviation) 25-26 (D)

ABVP vandalises Azim Premji University campus over Kashmir discussion

ABVP activists during their protest inside the university in Bengaluru on Tuesday evening.

Students and guards assaulted over proposed discussion; 18 taken into custody

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tension gripped Azim Premji University on Tuesday after members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) barged into its Sarjapur Road campus, vandalised property, and allegedly assaulted a student and security guards while protesting a discussion on the Kunan Poshpura mass rape.

Around 20 ABVP activists vandalised the university's logo outside the main gate with iron rods and blackened the nameboard before police arrived.

Police took 18 protesters into preventive custody after nearly two hours and said they would register a criminal case following a preliminary inquiry.

Police had no information about the incident till the video of the protest went viral on social media. It took them two hours to bring the situation under control, an officer said.

Spark Reading Circle, affiliated with the All India Students Association (AISA), had released posters for a discussion on the 1991 Kunan Poshpora mass rape. The event was scheduled for 6 pm.

The poster stated that 35 women were gang-raped by Army men personnel. "35 years on, not a single conviction has taken place... This is just one among the numerous instances of violence inflicted on the people of Kashmir. Join us for the discussion on the violence by the Indian State on Kashmir."

ABVP's charge

ABVP activists alleged that the event portrayed the Indian Army in a "derogatory manner and included discussions related to the separation of Kashmir from India". They also accused certain student groups of conducting programmes "against the unity and integrity of the country".

In a petition addressed to the Union Home Ministry, the ABVP demanded action against the student organisation and an inquiry into the incident. It also demanded action against the university administration for allegedly allowing such events on campus.

From the university

A university statement said: "On February 24 around 6 pm, a group of 20 people forced their way into our campus in Bengaluru. They shouted slogans, vandalised some of the property, and assaulted a few of our security guards and students. We reported the incident immediately to the local police station (Sarjapur). Police acted swiftly and rounded them up.

"Those who had forced their entry into our campus were protesting about an event that they claimed was going to be held on our campus. The Azim Premji University had not authorised any event of this nature. The university follows strict procedures before any event is held on campus. This event, which was allegedly planned by a small group of students, did not happen at all. We strongly condemn the ruckus and violence that was unleashed on our campus by this external group of people."

Students' counter-protest

Later in the evening, students gathered for an AISA-organised protest against the ABVP's "communal, fascist, casteist and patriarchal" assault.

The students said the ABVP attack was organised to "silence" a discussion organised by students that sought to centre the voices of Kashmiri women and reflect on questions of justice, memory and accountability.

They also alleged that police personnel present at the site initially failed to intervene to prevent the mob from entering the campus or de-escalate the situation.

Rs 2.8-crore hydroponic ganja seized at B'luru airport

BENGALURU, DHNS: Customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) seized about 8 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 2.8 crore.

Officials found the illicit substance while checking the luggage of a passenger who had arrived from Bangkok. Sources said the estimated value of the seized drugs was Rs 2.8 crore.

In another case, 900 grams of ganja was recovered from a passenger who had arrived from Hong Kong, with an estimated value of around Rs 31.5 lakh.

Officials said both passengers had concealed the ganja in their luggage and brought it into the country by air.

Police stated that cases had been registered against the suspects under the NDPS Act and investigations were underway. Airport security personnel and customs officials carried out a joint operation based on intelligence inputs.

Accused in V-Day drug-rape case 'absconding'

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Two men booked for drugging and raping a college student in a northern Bengaluru villa on Valentine's Day have allegedly absconded, prompting the Amruthahalli police to launch a search to track them down.

The 19-year-old student alleged that her drink was spiked during the private party, causing her to lose consciousness.

She was later sexually assaulted by her 21-year-old boyfriend and his 32-year-old friend, she said in her police complaint.

Based on her statement, the police registered a case, invoking sections pertaining to rape and other offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

A senior police officer said: "We are yet to question the suspects. Both of them are absconding and their mobile phones are switched off. A special team has been formed to track them down."

The suspects filed a counter-complaint, alleging that the student attempted to extort money from them by making false accusations and threatening to approach a news channel.

Police officials said they were investigating both complaints and analysing evidence, including forensic samples and digital records.

'Inconsistent statements'

Meanwhile, the police said the complainant had allegedly changed her version of the incident during questioning. Investigators said she appeared unclear about the sequence of events and had not provided consistent statements so far.

A police officer close to the investigation said her shifting stand had "complicated" the probe, making it difficult for officers to establish the exact circumstances of the alleged incident.

'Unusual' behaviour

Police added that her conduct during questioning was unusual, and further verification of facts is on.

Online petition seeks to halttree felling for Reshme Bhavan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Over 150 citizens have signed an online petition urging the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) not to approve the felling of 628 trees for the proposed construction of 'Reshme Bhavan' in Okalipuram.

"We are deeply disturbed by the proposed felling of trees and the loss of lush greenery in Okalipuram. The decision threatens not only our rich biodiversity, but also poses a significant risk to our urban environment," petitioner Vinod Jacob said.

"Instead of cutting down these precious trees, the government must explore alternative options, including utilising existing government premises in Ramanagara, which is closer to silk farmers, for constructing the office."

The GBA has invited objections until Saturday.

"Even if the Forest Department promises to plant 10 times as many trees, residents in the affected area will not immediately regain the oxygen and green cover they currently enjoy.

"More importantly, it takes 70 to 100 years to restore biodiversity and heritage trees identified for felling," residents said.

AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS: BANGALORE: Old Airport Road(Domlur): ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739969996, **Whitefield:** ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739969995, **K. R. Puram:** ARYAN SUZUKI,Ph: 9739949998, **Mahadevpura:** ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739929996, **Hoodi:** ARYAN SUZUKI –Bike Zone, Ph: 08047470000/8073783992, **KH Road:** AVANISH SUZUKI - 9591931113, **KH Road:** AVANISH SUZUKI BIKEZONE-9900879000, **Vijaynagar:** AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 8971900111, 8197800222, **Kengeri:** AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 8197900111, 9108945333, **Nagarbhavi:** AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 9606988444/ 9148233644, **Banaswadi:** BHOJANNA SUZUKI, Ph: 9148656565, **Bellary Road:** MEGHAVATH SUZUKI, Ph: 9632899459, **M G Road:** MEGHDOOTH SUZUKI, Ph: 9513533384, **HBR Layout:** MEGHDOOTH SUZUKI: Ph: 9513533374., **Hosur Road:** NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, **HSR Layout:** NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, **Bannerghatta Road:** NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, **Koramangala:** ORION SUZUKI, Ph: 080-25524747, 9535081055, **JP NAGAR:** ORION SUZUKI, Ph: 96060 37441. **Rajaji Nagar:** SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754163, **Mathikere:** SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754136, **T. Dasarahalli, Tumkur Road:** SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754150, **Basaweshwara Nagar:** SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754127, **Sheshadripuram:** SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754171, **Kottigepalya:** SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754131, **Nelamangala:** SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754142, **Vasanthnagar:** VALUE SUZUKI, Ph: 9845906084/ 9108258679, **Yelhanka:** HONNASIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 9945004047, **Basavanagudi:** ADVAITH SUZUKI, Ph: 9880741841, **Kathriguppe:** APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 080-26697070/ 8080, 8884446504/08/02, **BTM Layout:** APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446512, **Kanakapura Road:** APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446503, **RR Nagar:** APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446502, **HOSAKOTE:** DAIVIK SUZUKI, 9449046049, 7899366585,

Schools tighten safety after alert

A post about a stranger trying to lure a child goes viral, prompting city schools to tighten security protocols

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Schools across Bengaluru are putting in place extra safety measures after a post warning parents about strangers offering chocolates to children began circulating online over 10 days ago.

Seemant Kumar Singh, Bengaluru city police commissioner, told *Metrolife* that the post was speculative. "We checked with two schools in the CBD area and found that the story was hearsay," he said.

Many posts followed a February 13 circular issued by Bishop Cotton Boys' School, Residency Road, which was widely shared across WhatsApp groups. The circular states that the school was informed of "a recent incident reported by a parent" involving a stranger approaching a student near a school van and offering chocolates. It adds that "the child refused and the individual left" after being noticed by the van driver. The note urges parents to remain vigilant.

At The Green School Bangalore, Kotur, posters with directives for students on how to respond if approached by a stranger are on display.

A representative from the school confirmed that the circular was issued. The principal was unavailable for further comment.

Baldwin Girls' High School, Richmond Road, issued a circular reminding parents to ensure their children remained alert about strangers, and telling them to pick up their wards from inside the campus.

Principal Asha M Das said the school followed this up with class-wise sensitisation meetings for parents and students of classes 7 to 9 over the past 10 days. "We also spoke about social media, decorum at school, and staying alert," she said.

Parents were asked to strictly follow attendance and dispersal protocols and immediately inform the school if a child was absent or leaving with them.

"Students have been told to wait only in designated pickup areas and alert staff or the gatekeeper if they notice anything suspicious," she added.

Ground-level sensitisation

Greenwood High School on Varthur Sarjapur Road, sensitised drivers, lady attendants and teachers accompanying students on buses, to insist on parents being present at drop points at the designated time.

Principal Louis Lopez said, "While about 10% of students are picked up from the campus, about 90% commute by bus, making drop-off points a critical area of concern," and added that the school's GPS-enabled buses linked to an app allowed parents to track arrival times.

Identifying red flags

Hennur-based New Horizon International School has reiterated existing safety protocols. School counsellor Neha Poonacha said, "The first thing we educate students about is protocol. If a child wants to leave early or go home independently by cab, cycle, or on foot, parents must inform the school."

She insists on students following predictable schedules. "If there is a fixed time to go out and return, both parent and child know what to expect," she added.

Teaching children how to identify "red flags" is important — someone asking personal questions about home, parents or school on the first meeting should immediately raise suspicion, she said.

The 'No, go, tell' rule is explained, where children must refuse, move away, and inform a trusted adult in such situations, she added.

Poster campaign

At The Green School Bangalore in Kotur, a poster campaign outlining clear directives for students on how to respond if approached by a stranger has been introduced. "They advise children not to accept gifts or chocolates, to identify their 'safe circle' or inner circle of trusted adults, and to disengage and seek help if they feel uncomfortable," explained principal Usha Iyer. The school has demarcated "safe zones" within the campus and displayed the posters prominently.

Additionally, the school is organising a parents-only webinar this Friday, which will discuss child safety beyond school premises. "We also plan to explore wearable safety devices or SOS-enabled chips embedded in ID cards that could alert up to three designated contacts in case of an emergency," she added.

POPCORN

Ho garden

People living along a coastal highway in Mumbai are being driven up the wall by a song that plays all day — Jai ho. Surely you've heard of India's first musical road, driving on which activates sensors that play the hit from Slumdog Millionaire. An innovation to encourage driving at the right speed, and a smart way to promote music, no doubt. But people are now keeping their windows shut and demanding that the music be stopped. The traffic is high, and how many Jai ho exhortations can you take in a day? Don't know what happens if people drive drunk and in reverse. Will Jai ho play backwards — High Joe?

EVENTS

Classic play
'A Woman or Not to Be', a reimagining of William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', will be staged on February 27, 7 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry free. RSVP at bangaloreinternationalcentre. org.

Film screening
Cinema Next Door will screen Mira Nair's acclaimed 1991 romantic drama 'Mississippi Masala' on February 28, 6 pm, at The Bangalore Local, Koramangala. Details on cinemanextdoor.com.

Science drama
'The Trial of Abdus Salam', a play on the first Muslim Nobel Laureate in physics, will be staged on February 28, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm, at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets online.

Solo exhibition
'Vedic Inspirations', a solo show by Dr Akhter Husain, will be held from February 28 to March 8, 10.30 am to 6 pm, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road. It will showcase 25 mixed media works. Entry free.

Banu Mushtaq's Booker-winning stories on stage this Friday

SATHVI G BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

Rangayana Mysuru will stage 'Omme Hennagu', a theatre adaptation of four stories from Banu Mushtaq's 'Heart Lamp', the recent recipient of the International Booker Prize. It will be staged in Bengaluru on February 27 and is a collaboration with the Azim Premji Foundation. The play will be followed by a Q & A session with the author.

Directed by Savitha Rani, an NSD alumna, 'Omme Hennagu' weaves together four stories from 'Heart Lamp' — 'The Stone Slabs of Shaista Mahal', 'Black Cobra', 'Heart Lamp', and 'Be a Woman Once, Oh Lord!'. Banu's stories capture the everyday lives of Muslim women and girls and critically examine the deep-rooted patriarchy in the community. Her stories transcend cultural and geographical boundaries.

The play is performed by senior Rangayana artistes Shashikala B N and Nandini K R. "The four stories convey the female experiences in the most striking way. Women's lives have not changed much in the last 20 years. Through 'Omme Hennagu', we hope to advocate for women's sensibilities," Shashikala tells *Metrolife*. The team is very excited as Banu will be watching the play for the first time on Friday, she says.

The performance is an initiative of 'Noorakke Nooru Karnataka', a podcast hosted by the Azim Premji Foundation.

'Omme Hennagu' on February 27, 6.30 pm at Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala. Entry free. RSVP mandatory. Check @radioazimpremjiuniv on Instagram.

Pink splash: Techies create map to track flowering tabebuia rosea trees

The maps were developed with information from the BBMP tree census

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

As the pink tabebuia season reaches its peak, two Bengaluru techies are using their expertise to create maps tracking areas where the flowers are in bloom.

Initially, Faris Mohammed, a 34-year-old product designer, created an interactive map with data he already had on hand. "The map highlighted areas that are already known for the seasonal blooms — such as AECS Layout, Cubbon Park and the K R Puram area," he shares.

However, after learning about the BBMP tree census data available on opencity.in, he was able to superimpose the new information onto the map, which can be found on blrbloom.com. "The older version of the map had about 60-65 spots. Now, it is quite comprehensive and offers a clearer picture of just how many of these flowering trees are present across the length and breadth of Bengaluru," he explains, adding that there are about 21,000 to 27,000 of these trees in the city.

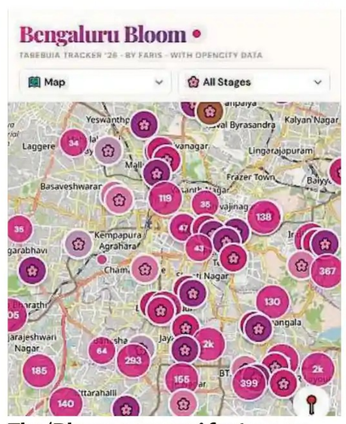
Inspired by sakura

The 'stages' filter on the mini app allows one to see the trees that are in various stages of bloom, from budding and partial bloom to peak bloom, full glory and fading. However, this feature is yet to become functional. "I just wanted to showcase what is possible, and in future, with crowdsourced data, it can become a reality," says Mohammed, who was inspired by the cherry blossom tracking apps in Japan.

The app also offers other features like top spots — Lalbagh west gate entrance, IISc campus main avenue and Jayanagar 4th block, 30th cross, for instance. Under the 'Gallery' tab, one can glance through images of the trees with captions specifying their location. Some of the photographs are crowdsourced, while others are by Mohammed.

One can look for the nearest flowering tree through the 'Bloom near me' feature, and even add a new spot by clicking 'Spot a bloom'.

The ornamental tabebuia rosea trees' peak blooming season is between February and March. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V



The 'Bloom near me' feature on Mohammed's map shows tabebuia trees in the user's vicinity.

COMMISSIONER SAYS

"It has been on my mind for some time to develop the tree flowering season into a tourist attraction. And we plan to do so in a systematic manner and focus on all the flowering trees in Bengaluru, which bloom at different points in the year. Apart from the tabebuia, we plan to also focus on blue jacaranda, gulmohar, flame of the forest and amaltas," says Maheshwar Rao, commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority. The idea was initially suggested by Subhash Kuntia, the former chief secretary of Karnataka, he adds.

Going viral

For 25-year-old Malavika S Menon, it was a fascination for these soft pink flowers that prompted her to map them. "I had quite a few images of these trees on my phone," shares Malavika, who moved to Bengaluru four years ago. The software engineer, who lives in HSR Layout and works at a tech park in Kadubeesanahalli, notes that there were quite a few trees in both areas. "I wondered which other, less-known areas one may find these trees in. I started researching it and found the BBMP tree census data," she reveals.

Malavika took a few hours to complete the non-interactive map, which she later posted on X.

"I used the QGIS software to develop it. That was the most challenging part because it was relatively new to me. I did it for fun and out of curiosity, but did not expect it to get the traction it has," says Malavika. The free, open-source software is specifically designed for geospatial data. The tweet, posted on February 23, currently has 2.6k likes and over 300 retweets.

Anti-caste poetry event on Saturday

The Reserved Compartment', will present a Dalit-Ambedkarite anti-caste English poetry showcase, at the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) this weekend. The event aims to foreground voices that challenge caste hierarchies through raw, personal storytelling and performance.

Organisers say the evening is designed to foster dialogue and reflection while building a sense of community around socially engaged art. Audiences can expect to listen to poems that confront entrenched social barriers while also celebrating resilience, solidarity, and love.

It will feature poets like Aleena, a Kerala State Sahitya Akademi Kanakashree Award winner, Bharath Raj, who is also a theatre artiste, and Dr Abhijit Shahaji Khandkar, a medical pathologist and founder of the anti-caste poetry collective, The Reserved Compartment.

The programme is expected to attract students, activists, and literature enthusiasts interested in contemporary anti-caste discourse.

On February 28, 6 pm, at MAP, Kasturba Road. Entry is free, but registration is mandatory. Register at map-india.org

Members of 'The Reserved Compartment'.

Free masterclass for photography enthusiasts

Acclaimed photographers will hold a free photography masterclass at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road, on February 28, from 2 to 5 pm. They include Balan Madhavan, Natasha Kartar Hemrajani, H Satish and Saurabh Anand Chatterjee. They specialise in fields such as conservation, culture and experimental photography. Titled 'Lenscape Kerala: Photography Masterclass', the session is designed to help participants view landscapes and cultures through an artistic lens.

Details on @ngma_bengaluru on Instagram.

SUNSHINE MUSIC
SUNSHINE PICTURES PRESENTS
SUNSHINE PICTURES
JO TAAQAT MOHABBAT MAIN HAI
WOH BAROOD MEIN KAHAN
A VIPUL AMRUTLAL SHAH PRODUCTION
THE KERALA STORY 2
GOES BEYOND
IN CINEMAS
THIS FRIDAY
PRODUCED BY VIPUL AMRUTLAL SHAH DIRECTED BY KAMAKHYA NARAYAN SINGH
CO-PRODUCED BY AASHIN A. SHAH, RAVICHAND NALLAPPA WRITTEN BY AMARNATH JHA, VIPUL AMRUTLAL SHAH
MUSIC & BACKGROUND SCORE MANNAN SHAAH LYRICS MANOJ MUNTASHIR CHOREOGRAPHER
ADVANCE BOOKING NOW OPEN
UA 16+
PARAS

Memorial run for Puneeth Rajkumar in March

The fourth edition of Namma Power Run, held in memory of late Sandalwood actor Puneeth Rajkumar, will be held along NICE Road next month. Puneeth was a fitness enthusiast, and the event aims to encourage people to embrace an active lifestyle.

Participants can choose from 5 km, 10 km, or 21 km (half marathon) categories. Registrations are open until March 5. The event has been conceptualised by ultramarathoners Babu Ankappa and Gururaj Nayak, and nutritionist Deepti Babu. Deepti says though Bengaluru is considered one of India's running capitals, many people outside its core running community largely remain unaware of such events. To make participation easier, the team couriers bibs and T-shirts to registered runners, while also keeping the option of in-person collection open.

She says the first edition saw around 2,000 participants, including children, and registrations this year have already crossed 4,000. "About 70% of these registrations are from Bengaluru, and the rest are from places like Mysuru, Mandya, and Chikkamagaluru," she says.

Besides promoting fitness, the initiative also aims to raise awareness about glaucoma, a group of eye disorders, and encourage eye donation. It also shines a light on Karnataka's cultural heritage. "Last year, we focused on Mysuru Palace, and this time it is the ancient city of Hampi. The medals will be modelled on these heritage centres," she says.

Details on nammapowerrun.com

Kudlu cook's videos stir up a storm online

Rajshree's nutrition-focused recipes have drawn millions of views and nationwide job offers

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Screengrabs from the recipe videos of stuffed moong dal cheela, channa dal moringa pancake, and sprout vegetable cutlets.

A woman who works as a cook for engineers and startup founders, is going viral on Instagram for the healthy, home-cooked recipes she shares. Rajshree Manger Thapa, known on Instagram as Raji Didi, launched her account on Valentine's Day and has since gained 83,800 followers. She posts two episodes each week, and currently has six posts and four recipe episodes available.

In her episodes, Rajshree features recipes she learned while working in the households of a few engineers. These recipes cater to a variety of needs, ranging from high-protein meals for fitness enthusiasts to healthy low-carb alternatives for those with high blood pressure and diabetes.

Rajshree moved to Bengaluru in 2023 and lives near Kudlu, where she works as a cook in four different households. Her journey with social media began when she was working for Aishwarya Sunil, the founder of an advertising agency. Aishwarya was recently diagnosed as prediabetic because of her eating habits, despite maintaining an otherwise healthy lifestyle. She realised there was a need to make changes to her diet. These changes, combined with Rajshree's understanding of cooking, helped her manage her high cortisol levels.

With her background in marketing, Aishwarya realised the potential of incorporating the recipes she received from nutritionists and Rajshree's cooking. Together, they launched the Instagram page @homefoodswithrajididi, which quickly became an overnight success. "I often saw videos she posted on her WhatsApp status with her husband. I asked her if she enjoyed making reels, and she said she did. I floated the idea to her, and she loved it, so we started the page," Aishwarya explained.

Rajshree Manger Thapa

All four episodes posted have received between one and two million views each. "The videos are thoughtfully curated to showcase Rajshree's expertise and stand out from other recipe content. Instead of merely explaining the cooking process, she highlights the nutritional value of the ingredients and shares practical food insights," Aishwarya added.

Since Rajshree's videos went viral, the 35-year-old from Darjeeling has received numerous job offers from across the country and abroad.

'A white elephant that beats all white elephants': Experts slam tunnel-road project

Extraordinarily costly, wasteful and ill-conceived: Historian Guha

BENGALURU, DHNS

Serious concerns are mounting over the state government's proposed North–South and East–West tunnel road corridors, with three prominent public figures terming the Rs 40,000-crore project "economically risky, environmentally disastrous and morally dubious".

Civic Bangalore, a not-for-profit citizens' collective, consulted historian Ramachandra Guha, former chief secretary A Ravindra, and former Lokayukta Justice (retired) Santosh Hegde to elicit their views on the ambitious underground corridor proposal aimed at easing traffic congestion in the city.

Guha described the project as an "extraordinarily costly, wasteful and ill-conceived" exercise. He expressed surprise that reputable institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science had not been consulted.

"When you design a complex infrastructure project, you must consult domain experts. The government lacks the necessary expertise and credibility to undertake such a massive exercise on its own," he noted.

Guha warned that tunnelling through Bengaluru's hard rock terrain for several miles could cause ecological damage and major traffic disruption during execution.

"This is a white elephant that beats all white elephants," he said, adding that the project is moving ahead without stakeholder consultation. He also cautioned that the project would exceed initial budget by 20-50%.

Ravindra acknowledged that Bengaluru is heavily congested but said the tunnel's full implications have not been properly analysed. "While the stated objective is to reduce congestion, there is a strong possibility that it may actually increase congestion," he said.

Referring to the Centre's National Urban Transport Policy, Ravindra stressed that cities must prioritise public transport and discourage private vehicle use. "The metro is popular but still requires expansion. The bus transport system must be improved by inducting more buses," he noted.

Calling the project "not viable", Ravindra expressed scepticism about its execution under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. "The project is fraught with problems. Citizens are likely to face considerable inconvenience," he said, urging the government to explore innovative measures to curb private vehicle use.

Justice Hegde termed the tunnel road proposal an "ad hoc plan", alleging that statutory bodies such as the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) had not been adequately consulted.

He also noted that the Directorate of Urban Land Transport had indicated that a tunnel road was not the right solution for Bengaluru and that an expert committee had identified 121 deficiencies in the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Describing it as an "elite project", Hegde argued that it would primarily serve private car users and raise concerns about equality before the law. With a proposed one-way toll of around Rs 300, daily commuters could end up paying nearly Rs 18,000 a month, he noted. Experts estimate that around one lakh cars may use the tunnel daily.

"In a city with nearly one crore vehicles, removing just one lakh vehicles will not meaningfully decongest Bengaluru," Hegde said, adding that the funds could instead be invested in rapid public transport systems that benefit a wider section of the population.

Mining: SC grants 6 more weeks to committee to fix boundaries

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended by six weeks the time for a committee headed by former judge Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia to fix the boundaries of the leased areas and the reserved forest areas in the borders of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to ascertain the extent of illegal encroachment, illegal mining and other unauthorised activities.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi took note of submissions that the committee had already undertaken its work but required more time to finalise its report.

The bench said it is inclined to grant six weeks to the committee for furnishing its report, considering the nature of the responsibility assigned to it.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra appeared on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh government.

Additional Advocate General Nishanth Patil represented Karnataka.

In September 2025, the court appointed the committee headed by Justice Dhulia and asked it to submit its report within a period of three months.

The request to set up a committee was made by the Andhra Pradesh government so as to fix the boundaries of the leased areas and the reserved forest areas and to ascertain the extent of illegal encroachment, extent of illegal mining and other unauthorised activities.

The respondents, Obulapuram Mining Company and others, had then opposed the submission. They said that what was agreed upon was only the demarcation of the leasehold areas. They submitted that now the state government was attempting to go beyond what was agreed upon earlier.

Declining to go into that controversy between the state and the respondents, the court appointed the committee, headed by Justice Dhulia, and comprising a member of the Central Empowered Committee, Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce (Mines), Government of Andhara Pradesh or his nominee, Secretary from the Department of Environment, Forest, Science and Technology, or his nominee, a nominee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Secretary Department of Revenue, Government of Andhra Pradesh or his nominee.

The court had then said that the committee, while finalising its report, would hear all the concerned parties, including the respondents.

Ramakrishnaiah appointed music varsity's new vice-chancellor

BENGALURU, DHNS: Governor and Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot has appointed K Ramakrishnaiah, senior professor and chairman of the Performing Arts Department, Bangalore University, as the vice- chancellor of Karnataka State Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Mysuru, for a period of four years.

The university has now got a regular vice chancellor after nearly a year.

The post of vice-chancellor has been vacant since July 23, 2025, when Nagesh V Bettakote's tenure ended. However, his term was extended twice.

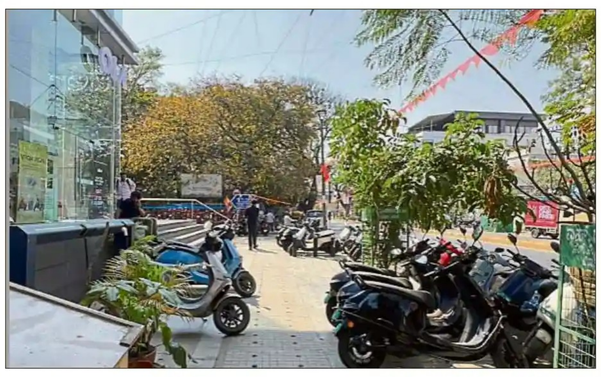
Dealers clog Indiranagar footpaths by parking new vehicles, allege residents

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The residents of Indiranagar have raised concerns about the vehicles being parked by dealerships and brand showrooms on footpaths.

Despite several complaints, the management at the Ola Electric store on CMH Road in Indiranagar continues to park its vehicles on the footpath in front of the store and also along the adjacent road, said Naresh D'Mello, president of The Defence Colony Residents' Association (DECORA).

"This Ola outlet opened about two years ago and they've caused trouble ever since. We have reached out to the police at least 20 to 25 times to complain about the illegal parking. In addition to parking along the footpath, they also park along the road adjacent to CMH Road, 1st Cross Road, which sees a heavy spillover from the main road as it also acts as an access road. They park vehicles on either side of the road, and as a result, this leads to congestion," he added.



Vehicles parked outside the Ola store on CMH Road. DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

Additionally, the store has installed a charging station outside it and also utilises the public parking space on the 1st Cross Road. "This parking is meant for the public. I am having trouble finding bike parking to visit the ATM nearby, some big brand showrooms have conveniently parked their bikes in the public parking area. They need to arrange for their own parking space. They cannot take over a public space," said Abhishek, an Indiranagar resident.

While the Ola staff at the store blamed the parking chaos on customers, Indiranagar police informed *DH* that a complaint had been filed against the store on Monday. "We've given them multiple warnings and even levied fines. It became a recurring problem, so now an FIR has been filed," he said.

Residents also shared that a similar problem exists at multiple dealerships across the neighbourhood. Affine Automotive on 6th Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, takes up the entire stretch of footpath outside its store. When questioned, the store manager said, "Since there are two huge trees on the footpath, it is not accessible. As people can't walk there, we are using it to park our vehicles."

While the River Store on 100 ft Road occasionally parks vehicles on the footpath, the Ather Showroom on the same street is among the few stores to pay heed to feedback from residents and stop encroaching footpaths, Defence Colony residents told *DH*.

"When they take over the footpaths, it forces us senior citizens to walk to the road, leading to several near miss accidents. It's highly unsafe. This is not a temporary problem, the dealerships have been doing it for a long time now," said Ashok Sarath, who has been residing in the neighbourhood for the last 29 years.

Avenues

भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स BHARAT ELECTRONICS
QUALITY. TECHNOLOGY. INNOVATION.
TECH-PERFECT SOLUTIONS FOR THE NATION'S DEFENCE
BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)

Bharat Electronics Ltd., a Navaratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking and India's Premier Professional Electronics Company requires an **Advisor for its Transducer Projects** for its Bangalore unit. Interested candidates may visit our web-site **www.bel-india.in** for detailed advertisement.

Sd/-
Date: 25.02.2026 Manager (HR-NS/S & CS)
'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

PROVISION OF POWER SUPPLY REDUNDANCY

E-Tender No.: SNT-42-LMG-2025-26; Dated: 20-02-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Name of work:** Provision of Power Supply redundancy of both system of BPAC (HASSDC/Dual SSDAC) at stations of Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹5,77,89,732.66; **Bid Security:** ₹4,39,000.00; E-tender will be **Closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 17-03-2026 and **Opened** at 15:30 hrs. on 17-03-2026. For details visit: www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. DSTE, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

EASTERN RAILWAY

Bid No.: 01MEDLPKPA25-26 dated 20.02.2026. Chief Medical Superintendent, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin-743145, invites Open Tender through IREPS for "Rate contract for supply of Medicine, Surgical, Lab item & Consumable against day to day Local Purchase of Kanchrapara Railway Hospital, Kanchrapara for a period of 02 years". **Estimated Value of Tender :** Rs. 1,42,71,530.15. **EMD:** Rs. 2,85,430/-. **ePBG :** 5% of P.O. Value, **Date & time of opening :** 06.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Period of Completion:** 02 Years. Tender documents will be available at IREPS site (Indian Railways E-Procurement System) i.e IREPS site https://www.ireps.gov.in and rates are to be quoted online and submitted online through IREPS site i.e. **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

MED-12/2025-26
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: Project-SWR-2x25-SBC-JTJ Dated: 09.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Traction Overhead equipment (OHE) for Upgradation work of Electric Traction System from 1x25 kV to 2x25 kV traction system for Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpet (JTJ) section of Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway to meet 3000 MT loading target.	Rs. 1,46,15,06,970.25/-

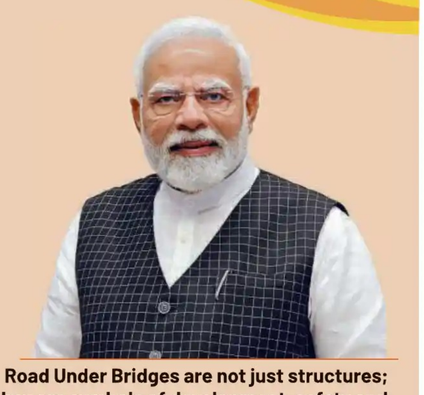
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 11.03.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Project/ Bengaluru
PUB/931/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Safe and Fast Connectivity Railway's Priority



Road Under Bridges are not just structures; they are symbols of development, safety and convenience for our citizens.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Inauguration of
Road Under Bridges at Bandihalli Road Gate, Donnere Gate & Baadenahalli Gate

Benefits

- Fulfillment of long-pending demands of local residents
- Improvement in safety and regional connectivity
- Smooth and uninterrupted movement of traffic by avoiding delays caused by gate closures
- Contributing to the overall economic and social development of the region.

by
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

LC 60, Bandihalli Road Gate, Gubbi | 12:00 PM | 25th Febuary, 2026

All are cordially invited

INDIAN RAILWAYS
In Service of the Nation

PUB/919/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

REAL SUCCESS without a REAL JOB

DH Avenues
Your invaluable career companion

For Recruitment Ads call:
M: 9148150850

विजय सेल्स vijay sales

WE ARE HIRING!
Vijay Sales is among India's leading consumer durables retail chains, operating 167 showrooms Pan India.

Join Our Team - Freshers are most Welcome
FLOOR MANAGERS | SR.SALES EXECUTIVES
SALES EXECUTIVES | CASHIERS

ARE YOU THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR?
PUC or above, with minimum 1-2 years of retail experience and aged between 21-27 years. College and University students are also welcome.

WALK IN FOR AN INTERVIEW

25th Feb
Wednesday
Timing : 12pm - 5pm
Vijay Sales, Rajaji Nagar Showroom, Modi Hospital Road, Opp. Kadamba veg Restaurant, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560086.

26th & 27th Feb
Thursday and Friday
Timing : 12pm - 5pm
Vijay Sales (India) Pvt Ltd (Regional Office) Rajatha Plaza Marathahalli Village Old Airport Road, Varthur Hobli Bangalore - 560037

PLEASE BRING YOUR UPDATED RESUME, PASSPORT SIZED PHOTOGRAPH, PANCARD AND AADHAR CARD COPY
Interested candidates can mail their resumes on hrbengaluru@vijaysales.com

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
(Affiliated to CBSE New Delhi)
K. Kamaraj Road, Bangalore - 560042 Tel: 080-25581238, www.apsbangalore.edu.in

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON ADHOC BASIS

Sl.No	Post & Subject	Qualification Required
1	**Post Graduate Teachers (PGT):** Informatics Practices	For Senior Secondary Classes (XI & XII) at least 50% marks in aggregate in BE/BTech/MCA/MSc in Computer Sci/IT and BEd with min 50% aggregate Marks.
2	**Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT)**	For Secondary Classes. Qualification - Graduate in the subject and BEd with at least 50% marks in each and qualified in CTET or TET with min 60% marks. **For Computer Science:** To teach secondary classes. Qualification: BCA or Graduation in Comp Sci or BE/BTech (Comp Sci/IT) or Graduation in any subject and A level course from DOEACC, Min of Info & Communication & Technology, GOI. BEd with at least 50% marks in each
	2.1 English	
	2.2 Hindi	
	2.3 Sanskrit	
	2.4 Maths	
	2.5 Science	
	2.6 Social Science	
	2.7 Computer Science	
3	**Primary Teacher (PRT)** 3.1 All Subjects	For Primary Classes to teach all subjects including Hindi. Qualification - Graduation with B.El.Edn/ D.El.Ed at least 50% marks in each
	3.2 Computer Science	Graduate in the subject/BCA/BCS/BE with B.El.Edn/ D.El.Ed at least 50% marks in each
	3.3 Physical Education (Female candidates preferred)	Graduate in Physical Education (BPEd) or DPEd. For DPEd at least university degree or Bachelor of Sports with min. 50% marks
4	**Primary Teacher (PRT)** Special Educator (female candidates preferred)	Graduate with BEd (Special Educator) or BEd General with 01 year Diploma in Special Edn with min 50% marks in each. **Preferably RCI certificate holder.**
5	**Pre- Primary Teacher**	Graduation with 50% marks and BEd (Nur)/ 2yr Dip in NTE/DECEd/NTT
6	**Sports Coach**	Sports Coach qualified and National players with experience in coaching sports discipline.
7	**Asst Lib**	B.Lib. Science or Graduate with diploma in library science recognized institute and computer literate.
8	**Para Medics**	10+2 and diploma in nursing with min five years experience Age below 40 years.

9. Note/Eligibility
9.1 Army Public School, K Kamaraj Road, Bangalore is a private unaided school.
9.2 **Age:** 9.1.1 Fresh candidates - below 40 years.
9.1.2 Experienced candidates 40 - 55 years with 5 yrs experience in last 10 yrs.
9.3 **Computer Literacy** is mandatory for all the posts.
9.4 Proficiency to teach in **English & Hindi medium** is mandatory.
9.5 **Preference will be given to candidates who have qualified in AWES OST and CTET/TET.**
9.6 **Interviews only** for short listed candidates, tentatively in mid Mar 2026.
9.7 NO TA/DA admissible.
9.8 Download **Application Form from: www.apsbangalore.edu.in ONLY HARD COPY APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED.**
9.9 Attach Bank draft for Rs, 250/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty) only in favour of **"ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL".**
9.10 Submit a separate duly filled-in application for each post (PGT/TGT/PRT) with self-attested enclosures to the Principal, Army Public School, K. Kamaraj Road, Sivanchetty Garden Post, Bangalore 560042, by post or by hand on or before **05 March 2026 (1500 hrs).** Late, incomplete, or email applications will be rejected.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

OBITUARY

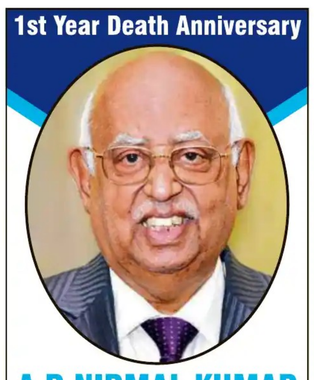
Smt. Shobha Talwar

D/o. Late Moola Rangappa & Late Smt. Venkatamma Moola

DOB: 24/09/1944 - DOD : 24/02/2026

In Grief : Moola Family & Talwar Family

1st Year Death Anniversary



A R NIRMAL KUMAR

DOB : 17.01.1943 | DOD : 25.02.2025

You will remain in our hearts forever.

AKAR

A N Mahavir & Navin
A M Shobha & Sapna
A M Aryan, Neel & Krrish

Minister launches statewide auto mutation of properties

Documents created if no objections filed with stipulated time

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government has extended the 'auto mutation' system of properties across the state.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda launched the extension initiative on Tuesday.

If no objection is filed within the stipulated period (seven days), automatic mutation documents will be created with the digital signatures of the village accountant (VA) and revenue inspector (RI).

In April 2024, changes were made in Bhoomi software so that mutation documents related to notice-free rights/ loans, land conversion, phodi, land acquisition, court orders, court stay/release, government orders, succession, and pahani transfer would be automatically approved.

From Apr 1, 2024 to Feb 20 this year, 35.11 lakh notice-free mutations have been automatically done without RI signatures. Similarly, from Dec 26, 2025, all mutations with 7-day (registered) and 15-day (unregistered) notice periods will, after expiry of the period, be automatically approved without human intervention.

Earlier, mutations with 7 and 15-day notice periods had to be approved by the RI personally through digital signature after expiry of the period. Because of this, mutation approvals were delayed.

In the new system, as soon as notice period expires, approval can be given automatically through server signature in the software without human intervention. If any objection application comes from the RI or the public during notice period, mutation will not be completed and case will be transferred to the tahsildar's court in RCCMS software.

By end of March, laptops will be distributed to all revenue inspectors which will help them immediately get information about objection applications related to mutation.

The automatic service for 7 and 15-day notice mutations was implemented experimentally in Mandya district. Only 2% objection applications came and account transfer was done automatically. No serious lapses were found. Therefore, automatic mutation service is being implemented statewide, said the minister.

"Deputy commissioners must create awareness among the public," said Rajendra Kumar Kataria, principal secretary, Revenue department.

KYC mandatory for objections

"Information related to mutation will be published in e-Chavadi. Within the stipulated time, objection applications must be submitted through e-KYC along with relevant documents. Oral objections will not be considered. Only if proper documents are submitted along with objection applications, they will be transferred to the tahsildar court," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

Link Aadhaar to pahani

By linking Aadhaar to property documents (pahani), illegal transfers can be prevented. If registration or mutation is done illegally, immediately a message will be sent to the mobile phone of the genuine heir. Then, it can be stopped. Revenue Minister Byre Gowda requested people to link Aadhaar to properties immediately.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers/ Professors

CAMLIN HIGH School, State Board. 6th 'C' Main, 4th Cross Near 7th Main Bus Stop Hampinagar Bangalore- 560104 080-23301363. Email: camlinschool84@gmail.com. REQUIRES for the academic year 26-27 Coordinator, Student Counselor Teachers for High School. Middle and Primary. Kannada English, Hindi Maths Science, Social Science Drawing Physical Education Computer Science. TCH/ D.ED./ NTT/ MTT. Apply with hand written application OR Send resume. English Medium candidates to apply. Candidates can come to give Demo classes. Bus Driver Security Guard Office Boy Helper Aya.

REQUIRES EXPERIENCED Primary and High School Teachers with B.A / B.Sc., B.Ed / M.A / M.Sc., M.Ed to teach Science, English, Mathematics and Sanskrit. English fluency is must. Walk-in-Interview. Contact Max Muller Public School, Mahalakshmi Layout, B'lore-96. Ph: 23376050. E-mail- maxmullerpublicschool.mlayout@gmail.com

"WANTED REPUTED School and College 1).PUC- Principal, 2).Qualified Teachers, 3).Office Clerks. Contact: 9845042360/ 8095554686"

Om Sai Ram
NEW BALDWIN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
(Head office @ Banaswadi)
OUR BRANCHES
SCHOOLS: *BANASWADI *MANDUR *TC PALYA *ANEKAL *ANEKAL TOWN *CHANDAPURA *ATTIBELE *HSR *KODATHI GATE(SARJAPURA) *KOGILU
COLLEGES: *BANASWADI *MANDUR *TC PALYA *ANEKAL TOWN *CHANDAPURA *ATTIBELE
About us: NBGI having 36 years of Excellence in providing quality education to 25k+ students. Our campuses are well facilitated across various locations at Bangalore with 10 schools, 6 PU Colleges, 2 Degree Colleges & upcoming University. We are collaborated with ICSE, CBSE & Cambridge (IGCSE) Boards. We cater to Day schooling and on campus Boarding facilities.
* PRINCIPAL/ VICE-PRINCIPAL/ ACADEMIC COORDINATOR
Post Graduate having 5 to 10 years experience & leadership qualities in reputed institutions with strong communication, decision-making and organizational abilities.
Remuneration: at par with the institutional standard. With additional facilities like food & transport in the gross package.
APPLY IMMEDIATELY
Applying candidates are to mail the updated resume with recent photograph and should clealy specify the Position applied for & Branch opted
Contact : 9886084799 / 7899227591
Mail: hr.centraloffice@newbaldwin.com www.newbaldwininstitutions.org

ARVIND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi (No. 831133)
#14, Kalikanagar, opp. Sowmyakali Temple, Andrahalli Main Road, PSI Post, BANGALORE- 560058
Ph: 9945409738 / 9663930002.
REQUIRES TRAINED EXPERIENCED FACULTY WITH ENGLISH FLUENCY
Teachers for NURSERY/ PRIMARY/ HIGH SCHOOL
Only CBSE experienced teachers are preferred.
Salary is not a constraint for suitable candidates.
Transportation for Teachers from: Magadi Road, Jalahalli Metro Station and Laggere.
Send your resume with recent passport size photo to arvindinterblr@gmail.com within 7 days

SREE VENKATESHWARA ENGLISH SCHOOL #1 V.S Layout Krishnarajapura Bengaluru-560036. WANTED TEACHERS- B.Sc B.Ed (Mathematics, Science) B.A B.Ed (Social English Hindi) TCH D.Ed, B.P.Ed, M.P.Ed B.Lib, Drawing, Clerks Attractive Salary Attend with Original Certificate. Contact: 080-25611873 7411135627 Email: svs.krp.bangalore@gmail.com

PROPERTY
To Place your Classified Ads Contact
9845114560

Wanted

IMMEDIATE HIRING. N_B_REALTY- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVES, REAL_ESTATE AGENTS, FRESHERS, AND STUDENTS CAN_APPLY. MAKE_UP TO 35,000 PER_MONTH TO *3,50,000 PER_MONTH. APPLY TODAY! Send_your Email_ID, Phone_Number & Location to_WhatsApp: [+91 6366950134]

1) REQUIRE Male A) Depo Manager and B) Accounts Person with Tally Invoicing Knowledge at Yeshwantpur RMC Yard from Nearby Area's Contact: 9341211718, 8217551818

General

"RDBS HAS_JOBS_IN Investment (properties,shares MF`etc)`for Admn_Executive, B.com`and Office_Manager Age-20, 50`years Experience upto-3`& 25`years, Languages: kannada,English essential, Tamil,Hindi desirable,2`&`4 wheeler essential near`Nexus`mall koramangala. mahesh24239@gmail.com Contact:_9342816060/ 080-25532216

Marketing & Sales

WANTED MARKETING Manager, Tele Marketing and Marketing Executives for reputed Real Estate to sell Plots and Farm Land. Preferably experience candidates. Call: 9845041912

WANTED SALE'S EXECUTIVES experienced in industrial products selling with two wheeler Contact; AMIT INDUSTRIES. 9739826852

Accounts & Finance

WANTED DIRECT Appointment Ladies FOR Accounts (Married) B.Com with Tally Knowledge Around Jayanagar & Kanakapura Harohalli: 9980921763/ 9632201671

Graphic Designers

WANTED GRAPHIC_DESIGNER/ DTP_OPERATOR. Experience in CorelDRAW. Kannada, English Typing'skills, Fresher's can also apply. 9845597155. enquiry@spoorthiads.com

WANTED MALE Graphic Designer (Corel Draw Photoshop Illustrator) Pvt Ltd Company around Rajajinagar Contact: 9108458798/ 9845579620

PERSONAL

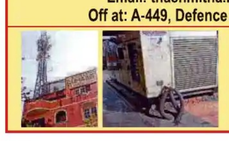
Change of Name

I, NEHA_MURALIDHAR DESHPANDE W/o.Sandeep Patil R/a.Flat.#302 #99,Lakven Pride Poorna PragnaNagar Uttarahalli Subramanyapura Post Bengaluru 560061 have_changed my`Name to NEHA_DESHPANDE vide`affidavit Dated:24.2.2026 before`Notary B.GopalaKrishna Bengaluru.

I, C.R.BALAKRISHNAN, residing at 31AG, Asset Gardenia, R.Narayanapura, Ramagondanahalli-Borewell Road, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru, 560066 have changed my name to Balakrishnan Chittor Rajagopal for all purposes

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Date: 24, February, 2026
Issued by: Suhaag Residency Welfare Association
Address: Suddagunte Palya, C.V. Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore-560093
Authorized Signatory: Mr. Arun Kumar Maity, Secretary
Suhaag Residency Welfare Association issued a legal notice dated 06.12.2025 through Ms. Thashmitha Muthanna, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, to M/s. Reliance Infocomm Ltd. and M/s. Reliance Infratel Ltd. demanding immediate removal of the abandoned telecommunication tower structure atop the building and payment of outstanding rental arrears.
The lease agreement dated 31.05.2003, revised on 11.09.2018, granted Reliance Infratel Ltd. permission to install and operate the telecom tower on the rooftop and basement area of Suhaag Residency Building at Suddagunte Palya, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093, for a monthly rent of Rs. 32,000/-.
•The tower has been non-operational and disconnected since 2021, with the last rent payment of 20,891/- received on 30.03.2022.
•Rental arrears for the period April 2022 to December 2025 (45 months) at 32,000/- per month, totalling 14,40,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Forty Thousand Only) along with interest, plus additional arrears are pending since 11.09.2018.
•Despite repeated reminders, emails (dated 18.02.2023, 20.02.2023, 13.04.2023), and a promise via email on 18.02.2023 to dismantle the Tower within 3-4 months, no action has been taken by the concerned Reliance entities.
All concerned, particularly M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (Registered Office: Avadesh House, 3rd Floor, Preetam Nagar, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006, Gujarat) and M/s Reliance Infratel Ltd. (offices at R Com House, 8th Mile, Hesaraghatta Cross, NH-4, T Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560057; 125, Cunningham Rd, Abshot Layout, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001; 39/14, Sarjapur - Marathahalli Rd, Ibbaluru, Bellandur, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102; and 54, HM Towers, 4th Floor, Magrath Road Junction, Brigade Road, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560001), are hereby notified to:
•Pay all arrears of rent/compensation immediately, within 15 days.
•Remove the entire tower structure and equipment forthwith from the premises, within 15 days.
Failure to comply will compel the Association to:
Initiate removal and dismantling of the tower structure without further notice.
Appropriate proceeds from any disposal/sale of the structure towards the arrears, without prejudice to legal rights for recovery of further dues, damages, and breach of contract remedies.
This public notice serves as a final notice to all parties concerned. Residents, stakeholders, and the public are informed of these facts. Failure to take immediate action may follow Legal action, as necessary.
Contact: Mr. Arun Kumar Maity, Secretary,
Suhaag Residency Welfare Association, Phone: +91-9449340557,
Email: aaku1910@gmail.com
Advocate: Thashmitha Muthanna, Ph: +91-8105370031,
Email: thashmitha.muthanna1@gmail.com,
Off at: A-449, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024.



Accessories available there on

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Industrial & Factory

Out-Station

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE OR LEASE
60 gunthas (1.5 Acres) K.I.A.D.B. HONAGA Industrial Area, Honaga, Belagavi, Karnataka. Clear title, protected boundries, water tank, bore well, toilet facility, 150 KVA connection (HT Line),500 KVA transformer # 30 ft Road at one side.. Directly connected to Puna-Bangalore highway.(400 mtr from NH4)
CONTACT NO:- MOB :- 9448274014

Peenya

SALE 20 Acres Industrial Zone Land, 100 feet Road. Suitable for Industry/ Warehouse/ Commercial. 9141326819

Intl Airport Road

SALE RED_CATEGORY Industrial Land & Building in AP Hindupur APIIC allotted Suitable for Chemical, Pharma, Organic, Fertilisers Manufacturers. 20000sft, 41500sft, 135000sft clear_titles. Call Verna Developers, Barton Centre, MG_Road. 9916310226.

Villas/Bunglows

East

4 BHK independent villa, gated community, 5 bathrooms, beautifully maintained, contact 7674928555

CONNECT

KARNATAKA'S BIGGEST OG SEERE UTSAVA 2.0 IS BACK
100000 + Sarees 20,000 + Designs 2000 + Varieties
MYSORE SILKS Weaver's OG Seere Utsava By Sulakshmi Silks
Lowest Price Guaranteed Direct Weaver's Prices
100 YEARS OF TRUSTED LEGACY
SULAKSHMI SILKS
18th to 28th FEB 2026
11 AM TO 9 PM
SIGNATURE SILK SAREE COLLECTIONS
• Pure Mysore Silk • Kanjeevaram • Patola
• Banaras • Uppada • Paihani • Chanderi
• Gadwal • Ilkal • Pochampally • Muga
• Bhagalpur • Ikat • Jamdhani • Arni
• Gajji • Bandhani • Cotton Classics
• Crepe • Bangalore Silk & More

Sri Suryodaya Kalyana Mantapa
West of Chord Road, Vijayanagar
99727 18898 | 96631 27606
93531 38343 | 98863 06643

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Industrial And Factory

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE, in KIADB Allotted Corner Plot, 50000 sqft, Facing 150 ft Rd, 500mts from STRR, 300mts from the Brigade WTC Devanahalli, 20mins from Kempegowda International Airport. Ct: 9677403235

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Business

ಚಿನ್ನವನ್ನು ಸಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಕಬೇಕೇ? ಚಿಂತೆಪಡಬೇಡಿ, ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಹಳೆಯ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಆಭರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಖ್ಚೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ... ತಕ್ಷಣ ಹಣ
ಸಿ ಜಿ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಕಂಪನಿ
ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ – ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
Call: 88844 57700
Email:cjgoldblr@gmail.com

Financial Services

LOAN AGAINST CREDIT CARDS. INSTANT PAYMENT. APPLY THROUGH LINK. SARAKKI LOANS, 9663676464

Hotel & Restaurant

WELL FURNISHED Restaurant with well equipped kitchen & Everything in 1000 Sft area for SALE or RENT in Posh Vijaya Bank Layout, Bannerghatta Road. Lease Agreement Transferable. For Details Call: 9900001954

Business Offers

Machinery & Tools

PLANT FOR Sale. 20ltr Packaged Drinking water ISI Company with vehicle. 600 cans currently selling. 10 years lease cum rent. 9535088153.

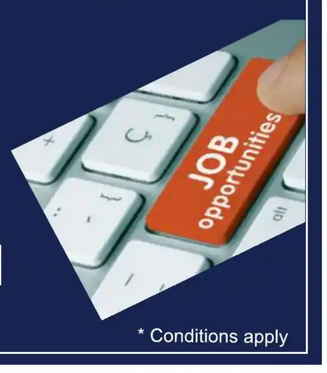
TOURS & TRAVEL

Travel

8 DAYS Kshmir Vaishnodevi. 13 Days Chardham Yatra. 7 Days Kashi Ayodhya. 7 Days Amarnath Yatra. Nandi Holidays Banglore Mob: 9740228186, 9035513332

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
BOOK YOUR JOB ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON WEDNESDAY + SUNDAY
@ 2481/-* FOR 15 WORDS
RECRUITMENT
www.dhclassifieds.com BOOK NOW
For more details contact:
+91 9845114560 | +91 9900428036 | +91 9731810277 |
+91 9886213331 | 080- 45557163/164
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ



* Conditions apply

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Betterment Charges: Supporting Planned Urban Development

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), in respect of layouts such as Arkavathi Layout, Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and several other areas falling within the Bengaluru metropolitan region, had earlier issued preliminary land acquisition notifications. Subsequently, certain properties were found not required for the respective development schemes. Since these properties fall within the notified scheme areas, BDA has decided, in accordance with legal provisions, to levy betterment charges to regularise such properties and bring them within the framework of planned development.

This provides property owners whose lands were released from acquisition an opportunity to regularise their properties.

Constitutional and Legal Basis

As per Articles 20 to 24, Article 265 of the Constitution, and Entry 49 of List II in the Seventh Schedule, provision exists for levying such development charges. The Karnataka Legislature has enacted the Bangalore Development Authority Act, 1976, which empowers the Authority to levy and collect taxes on land and buildings.

Accordingly, BDA is authorised to levy betterment charges. The Act clearly specifies the stages at which such charges may be levied and the applicable rates.

Procedure Followed Before Levying Betterment Charges

For development schemes such as formation of layouts, BDA issues a preliminary notification for acquisition of required land. After issuing such notification, if certain lands are found not required for the project, they are withdrawn from the scheme through due notification. However, where such lands fall within the broader development area and benefit from infrastructure created under the scheme, betterment charges are levied only when development work has substantially progressed.

Property owners whose lands are proposed for levy of betterment charges are issued notices under Section 17(5) of the Act. From the date of receipt of the notice, owners are given three months to either accept or submit objections for the proposed levy in writing.

If the Authority's proposed levy is accepted within the stipulated time, the levy decided by the Authority becomes final. If the required information is not furnished by the land owners within the specified period, BDA has the authority to approach the jurisdictional court to determine and recover the charges payable from such owners.

Basis for Levy and Rate of Betterment Charges

Betterment charges are determined for properties that are not included in the scheme when development activities in the layout in the land acquired have progressed substantially. The rate is calculated based on one-third of the increase in market value of the land from the time of acquisition notification to its current value.

While calculating betterment charges, only the land value is considered; buildings or other structures on the property are not taken into account.

Benefits of Paying Betterment Charges

For development of various layouts, BDA has acquired land across hundreds of villages in all four directions of Bengaluru. After preliminary notifications for land acquisition, some lands were later released due to various reasons. However, as development progresses in surrounding areas, the value of such lands increases significantly. At the same time, lack of formal regularisation may create issues relating to documentation, development permissions, and transactions. Payment of betterment charges helps regularise such lands, removes legal ambiguities, and enhances their market value 100%. This also ensures that property owners benefit alongside the city's development.

BDA's Contribution to Bengaluru's Growth

Bengaluru, known as the Garden City, Pensioners' Paradise, Silicon City and a major IT-BT hub, continues to grow rapidly. The boundaries once marked by Nadaprabhu Kempegowda have now expanded into a large metropolitan region. Over the past five decades, the city has expanded significantly, evolving into Greater Bengaluru, with notable improvements in infrastructure and civic amenities. BDA has made substantial contributions to this growth and the city's prominence in Asia.

Measures Towards Financial Sustainability

As urban expansion accelerates, financial sustainability of public institutions becomes critical for efficient functioning. Though BDA operates as an autonomous body under government guidance, it requires adequate financial strength to implement development projects effectively.

Accordingly, BDA has undertaken several measures including resource mobilisation, efficient asset management and revenue enhancement initiatives. These efforts of financial empowerment will support future planned urban development and citizen-centric services.

Steps such as reclaim of land in older layouts, formation of sites and e-auctions, including Konadasapura land auctions and auction of 382 corner sites, are expected to generate approximately ₹10,000 crore in resources. Auctioning litigation-free BDA lands is also aimed at strengthening financial resources.

Layouts Proposed for Levy of Betterment Charges

With regard to development schemes, after issuing the preliminary notification for land acquisition, it has been decided to levy development charges on developed properties that were excluded in the final notification. The committee constituted by the Commissioner to examine the levy of development charges, based on the data furnished by the Land Acquisition Officers, has opined that development charges may be levied on the following layouts. The details are as follows:

Proposed Betterment Charges per Square Foot

Sl. No	Name of the Layout	Betterment Charges (₹/sq ft)
1	Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage	99.00
2	Banashankari 6th Stage	14.00
3	Anjanapura Layout	37.00
4	Banashankari 5th Stage	123.00
5	JP Nagar 9th Phase	48.00
6	Arkavathi Layout	336.00
7	Further Extension of Vishweshwaraiah Layout	06.00
8	RMV 2nd Phase	14.00
9	HBR 1st Stage	09.00
10	HBR 2nd Stage	35.00
11	HBR 3rd Stage	13.00
12	HRBR Layout	06.00
13	Jnanabharathi Layout	73.00
14	BTM 4th Stage	24.00
15	BTM 6th Stage	02.00
16	Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout	15.00
17	HSR Layout	06.00
18	Shinivagalu Tank Bed Layout	19.00
19	East of NGEF Layout	08.00
20	Further Extension of East of NGEF	06.00
21	JP Nagar 8th Phase Layout	03.00
22	Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout	74.00

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

For More Information Contact :
www.housing.bdabangalore.in / www.bdakarnataka.in
24/7 HELPLINE Number : 948 316 6622

Shri N.A. Haris,
MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency
& Chairman, BDA

BJP state-level workshop tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state general secretary P Rajeev said on Tuesday that a state-level training workshop would be held for party workers on Feb 26.

Addressing a press meet, Rajeev said the workshop would be presided over by the party's state unit president B Y Vijayendra. National general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh would attend the workshop.

Rajeev said such drives would be organised at 1,156 places (200 office-bearers from each place would attend on average). More than two lakh office-bearers would be given training in these workshops, he said.

"In our party, character building leads to organisation building, through which we aim to build the nation," he said, adding that the workshop would intend to develop "ideological commitment" among the cadre.

Socio-edu survey: 1 cr data gap may prove tricky for BCs' panel

'May lead to communities claiming under respresentation'

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Madhusudan Naik-led backward classes commission expected to submit its report on the social and educational survey soon, questions have arisen over around 1 crore persons not being enumerated and its potential ramifications on the report's recommendations.

The survey covered 5.86 crore out of an estimated 6.85 crore persons in Karnataka (85.54%). Since the High Court had specified that participation in the survey was not mandatory, many had refused to divulge information. When all such families are included, the number approached is said to be around 6.13 crore.

The critical point is that it's not possible to determine the caste and religion of the one crore people who have not participated in the survey. This, critics feel, leads to incomplete data where different communities may claim to have been "underrepresented".

Earlier backlash

The previous survey was conducted in 2015 by the H Kantharaj-led backward classes commission, which recorded a 94.17% coverage (5.98 crore covered out of an estimated 6.35 crore). Since the last census was in 2011, both figures - 6.35 crore in 2015 and 6.85 crore in 2025 - are population estimates.

When key details of the report on the population of specific communities were leaked in 2018, dominant communities such as Lingayats and Vokkaligas strongly opposed the report, calling it "unscientific" and claimed it "undercounted" their numbers.

When the next commission, headed by Jayaprakash Hegde, prepared its own report based on the 2015 survey, the leaked numbers were validated, the protests continued, even as OBC, Dalit and minority communities supported the exercise by and large.

After a lot of political drama, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah eventually decided on June 12, 2025, to conduct another survey, arguing that the previous survey was 10 years old (section 11 of the Backward Classes Commission Act mandates revision of the list every 10 years).

However, it is widely believed that the real reason for not implementing the Hegde Commission's report was the pressure from dominant communities.

The new exercise has been seen as a compromise and an effort to take along both dominant communities. For the first time, the commission has members from both Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities.

K N Lingappa, a member of the backward classes commission during Kantharaj's tenure, explained that the survey coverage (85.54%) meant that the Kantharaj survey numbers were likely to be validated.

"If the coverage numbers are lesser, why was the data collected by the Kantharaj-led commission not accepted?? What was the need for the government to spend an additional Rs 425 crore for this?," he said.

Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes chairman R Madhusudan Naik told *DH* that these questions would be answered in the report. The report is likely to be submitted in March.

Parameshwara, DKS support first-time MLAs' demand for berths

I was made a minister as a first-time MLA, says deputy CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Parameshwara

Shivakumar

After more than 30 Congress MLAs elected to the Legislative Assembly for the first time wrote to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi asking to be considered for Cabinet berths during the next reshuffle exercise, they received support from senior party leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Home Minister G Parameshwara.

Shivakumar sought to point out that he had earned a Cabinet berth as a first-time MLA. "I read about it in the newspapers. I have not received the letter. Everyone aspires to become a minister. Did Narendra Modi not become the CM without ever having been an MLA? There is nothing wrong in asking for the post. How long can we stay in the same place," asked the Deputy CM.

The induction of young faces into the Cabinet would usher in fresh ideas, opined Shivakumar. "Newcomers must enter the Cabinet. I am among those who support their induction. We must groom newcomers. The party will take a decision on this issue," he added.

Parameshwara said that the newcomers were merely asking for experience.

"There is nothing wrong in including them. Their demand is not wrong. The matter will be decided by the high command and the CM," said the Home Minister.

Thousands of students and government job aspirants, under the banner of Akhila Karnataka State Students' Association, take out a protest march demanding immediate recruitment to fill vacant government posts, in Dharwad on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

CM promises so speed up recruitments; blames BJP govt for vacancies

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured the protesting government job aspirants in Dharwad that the process of filing vacancies is in progress and it will be further accelerated in a "transparent, systematic and time-bound" manner.

"I take serious note of the ongoing protests by the government job aspirants in Dharwad. As chief minister, I want every student to know that your concerns are heard, and your future matters deeply to us," Siddaramaiah said in a press release.

There are around 2.84 lakh vacancies in government offices. If the number of jobs in the state-run boards and corporations is included, this number crosses 4 lakh.

He said there were 2.64 lakh vacant posts when the Congress came to power in 2023 and blamed the previous BJP government's "prolonged inaction" for it.

Slamming the BJP leaders for "misleading" the students, he said: "The present situation is largely a consequence of the series of recruitment irregularities and corruption scandals between 2019 and 2023, which eroded trust in the system and resulted in a massive backlog of vacancies."

Stating that over 40,000 recruitments have been made since the Congress came to power, the chief minister also noted that the government had relaxed the recruitment age criteria by over five years.

Speaking about the same issue, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said: "Why didn't they do (fill the vacancies)? We are doing. Since there are difficulties in finding jobs, we are providing Rs 3,000. There were issues with 371(J) and internal reservation. But we are doing."

'Start recruitment now'

State BJP president BY Vijayendra (BYV) accused Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar of "playing with the lives of the youth."

"The Congress government has not been able to fill even a single post. The chief minister, deputy chief minister, and cabinet members are delivering speeches across the state, but they have failed to deliver justice to the youth," he charged.

He demanded that the recruitment process for vacant posts must start immediately and that the KPSC system should be reformed.

Slamming the government's "prolonged neglect," Union Heavy Industries and Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy said on X (formerly Twitter): "The government must act with urgency, step down from the third floor of Vidhana Soudha and listen to the voice of the youth."

Mega stir in Dharwad for govt job recruitments

Thousands of students and government job aspirants under the banner of Akhila Karnataka State Students' Association (AKSA) staged a massive protest in Dharwad on Tuesday, demanding immediate recruitment notifications to fill vacant government posts.

Protesters burnt effigies of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D K Shivakumar and other ministers, raised slogans seeking corruption-free recruitment and disrupted traffic between 10 am and 5 pm.

Protesters breached barricades, leading to clashes with police, who resorted to a mild lathi charge after some agitators reportedly threw objects. A brief sit-in affected traffic in the twin cities. Leaders of the Opposition in the Assembly and Council, R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy respectively, faced 'go back' slogans when they attempted to address the gathering, as protesters opposed "politicising" the agitation.

Rationalisation: ASHA workers warn of stir from Feb 27

They fear 7,000 to 8,000 workers will lose jobs

BENGALURU, DHNS

ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers have warned of launching an indefinite strike on February 27 over a health department order to rationalise the number of workers and failure to meet their demands.

The Karnataka State Joint ASHA Workers' Association condemned the order issued by the department.

According to law, one ASHA worker is allocated per 1,000 people. Under rationalisation, the department has decided to increase the assigned population from 1,000 to a maximum of 2,000 in rural areas.

In urban areas, with a population more than 50,000, the department had decided to increase the assigned population from 1,000 to a minimum of 2,500 and a maximum of 3,000.

D Nagalakashmi, state secretary, ASHA Union AITUC, said, "The secretary of the department informed us that until the population assigned is only 1,000, an honorarium of Rs 10,000 cannot be achieved. So he advised us to increase the population assigned for each ASHA to 2,000 and let go of the other workers who will be extras. How is that fair?"

She said: "This will result in 7,000-8,000 ASHAs being removed, rendering them jobless. This is only being done in Karnataka."

Currently, the state government pays ASHA workers an honorarium of Rs 5,000 while the central government provides them performance-based incentive.

However, to receive the incentive, a primary health community officer (PHCO) leading the ASHA workers will have to enter the details on the ASHA portal.

But since recruitments have not been done for PHCO posts, workers are struggling to receive incentives, the ASHA workers said.

ASHA workers have also submitted pre-budget demands to the government, including increasing the combined incentive from state and central government to Rs 15,000. They want the state to increase the honorarium from Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000, as promised in the Congress party's election manifesto.

The have also requested for a lump sum benefit to retired ASHA workers like in West Bengal, a corpus fund to cover treatment expenses for ASHA workers suffering from serious illnesses, with reimbursement provisions, and ASHA workers suffering from severe illness being given fixed monthly honorarium during recovery period of three months.

For the same reasons, ASHA workers held an indefinite protest in January. On the fourth day of the protest, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah intervened and promised to fulfill the demands.

'Mahadevappa also part of high command'

Queried about Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa's statements on a Dalit occupying the CM's post, Shivakumar said, "He is also a part of the high command. So, if the CM is being changed in the state, he must have that information, which is why he has raised the issue of a Dalit CM."

Admitting that he had seen Mahadevappa's statement, Shivakumar added, "But there has been no discussion about it. He may have information about the change of CM, but I don't."

Asked if the high command had summoned the CM and him, Shivakumar said that he had received no call. "I have to go to New Delhi for some work connected with our department. A sum of Rs 1 lakh crore is being provided for the Urban Development Department project, but they say it will only be given to the big cities. I will discuss with the Urban Development Minister on preparing a proposal for the development of two and three tier cities," he added.

On staying silent about minister's statements despite being the KPCC president, Shivakumar said, "It is the CM who must control the ministers and MLAs. As the party president, I am keeping New Delhi informed."

1,600 vacancies in fire dept to be filled: Home minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Tuesday that steps will be taken to fill 1,600 vacancies in the Fire and Emergency Services department.

"A proposal regarding the same has been submitted to the chief minister. As many as 1,600 posts will be filled. Rs 329 crore was provided under the 15th Finance Commission. Rs 98 crore has been spent to build 21 fire stations. Steps have been taken to purchase modern equipment and upgrade the training centre," he said.

He was speaking after presenting the chief minister's awards to eligible personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services, Home Guards, Civil Defence and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and handing over 40 new fire water tenders at a programme at the RA Mundkur Fire Training Academy on Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru.

G PARAMESHWARA
Home Minister

"High-rise buildings are increasing in Bengaluru. Modern and well-equipped tools and vehicles have been provided to control fire accidents when they occur. For the first time, an Aerial Ladder Platform vehicle capable of reaching a height of 90 metres has become a model fire vehicle.

The home minister further said that he had requested the chief minister to establish fire stations in 15 new taluks. "We have built 40,000 houses under the Police Gruha scheme. A decision has been taken to provide residential quarters for fire personnel on the same model. Funds will be provided for this," he said.

"High-rise buildings are increasing in Bengaluru. Modern and well-equipped tools and vehicles have been provided to control fire accidents when they occur. For the first time, an Aerial Ladder Platform vehicle capable of reaching a height of 90 metres has become a model fire vehicle," he added.

BYV urges CM to lift ban on media at Vidhana Soudha

BENGALURU, DHNS

B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP state president

"We are living in a democracy. Transparency and accountability are the hallmarks of any government. Let's be transparent and accountable to the people.

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to withdraw the restriction that allows journalists to take video bytes at only one gate of the Vidhana Soudha.

In a letter to the chief minister, Vijayendra also sought entry into Vidhana Soudha for all journalists (including those without accreditation cards).

Referring to the restriction on taking bytes, he said: "I am given to understand that the DPAR circular restricting media entry to Vidhana Soudha is issued out of security concerns. But I think that is not an insurmountable issue. Security can be tightened, can be made fool-pro but without hindering the media from doing their professional duties."

Referring to the aspect that only those journalists with accreditation cards can enter the Vidhana Soudha, Vijayendra argued that all journalists (those having and not having accreditation cards) and those from electronic media and YouTube channels should be allowed into Vidhana Soudha.

"We are living in a democracy. Transparency and accountability are the hallmarks of any government. Let's be transparent and accountable to the people. Let the media do its job, without any fear or favour. Let there be a healthy relationship between the media and the government on one side and the media and legislators on the other side."

M'luru airport wins service quality award

MANGALURU, DHNS: Airports Council International (ACI) World has named Mangaluru international airport the winner of 2025 airport service quality award for best Airport at arrivals – globally.

The ASQ Awards are regarded as aviation industry's most credible measure of customer satisfaction, based entirely on real-time passenger feedback collected through ACI's independently administered survey.

This is the second consecutive year that it has secured the global arrivals distinction.

High Court sets aside case against govt high school principal booked for 'insulting' tricolour

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has set aside criminal proceedings against a government high school principal under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that lack of mens rea (guilt of mind) would necessarily lead to setting aside the proceedings for an offence under Section 2 of the Act, as the word employed is 'intentional'.

B C Venugopal, Principal of Bagalagunte Government High School in Nagasandra, had challenged proceedings initiated against him based on a complaint by a human rights activist. The complaint had alleged that the principal had put up a WhatsApp status, purportedly showing him standing with slippers on the National Flag.

Venugopal submitted that on October 2, 2024, the WhatsApp status of students and teachers and many others were connected to the celebrations of Gandhi Jayanti. The complaint was filed on October 5, 2024.

According to the petitioner, his mobile phone was with the students, one of whom edited the picture. He further submitted that on October 2 itself, the student had admitted to having edited the photo, explaining that he had unknowingly placed the principal's photo the National Flag.

It was further submitted that since he is a very strict teacher, students had an animosity towards him and had edited the image only to create embarrassment to the petitioner.

On the other hand, the prosecution contended that whether the students edited and posted it or otherwise must necessarily mean that the case must be investigated. It is a disputed question of fact that the petitioner's phone was given to students who edited and circulated the picture.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that Section 2 of the Act has borne interpretation by several high courts and said that mens rea becomes the key ingredient of an offence under Section 2. The court also perused both the original and the edited pictures and said that the picture of the petitioner was taken elsewhere, edited and placed on the National Flag.

"It ostensibly cannot be by the petitioner himself, but as admitted, by the student. The petitioner has also given a plausible explanation for the students doing so. Even otherwise, there are no antecedents of the petitioner that would entail investigation in the case at hand. He is a teacher, who has been the principal of the said institution for the last 7 to 8 years and has not had an incident of the kind that is now projected," the court said.

2 labourers fall to death from under-construction building

HUBBALLI, DHNS: Two construction workers were killed after falling from the sixth floor of an under-construction medical college building at Gabbal in Hubballi on Tuesday.

According to Kasabapet police, the labourers were working on the sixth floor of the KLE JGMM Medical College building. After losing their balance, both fell to the ground, and one person died on the spot, while the other succumbed to injuries at the KMCRI Hospital in the city.

The deceased have been identified as Mallesh Mishiyavar (46) of Attigeri village in Shiggaon taluk of Haveri district and Akbar Goususab Sangati (35) of Annigeri town in Dharwad district.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad, who was in Dharwad, visited the mortuary of KMCRI Hospital to console the family members of the deceased labourers.

Bengal SIR: SC okays using...

Bengal SIR, From Page 1

The bench said that democratic rights must be preserved. The court allowed the Aadhaar Card and Madhyamik admit card as the identity document for the SIR exercise. "We state that all such documents, whether electronically updated or physically handed over before February 14, 2026, shall be considered," the bench clarified. The court invoked its powers under Article 142 and to declare that voters enlisted in such supplementary lists would be deemed to be part of the final list published on February 28, 2026.

Hearing pleas challenging the SIR exercise in West Bengal, the court, on February 20, dismayed over the ongoing tussle between the West Bengal government and the ECI, issued an 'extraordinary' direction to deploy serving and former district judges to assist the poll panel in the controversy-ridden SIR exercise in the state. The logical discrepancies in progeny linking with the 2002 voter list included instances of a mismatch in the parent's name and the age difference between a voter and his/her parent being less than 15 years or more than 50 years.

HPV vaccine campaign...

HPV vaccine, From Page 1

Since 2006, HPV shots have been licensed for cervical cancer prevention, initially as a three-dose regimen, and later as a two-dose regimen for girls younger than 15 years.

But later, based on scientific evidence showing that one dose of HPV vaccine is as effective in preventing HPV infection and cervical precancerous lesions as a multi-dose regimen, the WHO in 2022 endorsed single-dose vaccination schedule in females aged 9–20 years. The Indian Council of Medical Research too has conducted trials on efficacy of single dose vaccine.

Earlier, the International Agency for Research on Cancer has shown how shifting to single-dose would save India approximately $435 million over a 10-year period. Globally, over 90 countries are implementing single-dose schedules. Several countries have already demonstrated substantial reductions in HPV infection, precancerous lesions, and cervical cancer incidence following widespread vaccination.

T Narsipur KSIC filature unit employees stop production

On strike to save 5-acre land now earmarked for stadium

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

As many as 192 employees of the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) filature unit at T Narsipur in the district have stopped work since last Saturday fearing closure of the factory. They are on a protest against proposed transfer of five acre of factory's land for construction of a stadium.

"This unit processes 1,500 to 2,000 kg of cocoons to 250 to 300 kg silk yarn per day for weaving 2,200 metres of Mysore Silk per day (400 sarees) in Mysuru and Channapatna. The production of sarees has not been affected yet, as we have a buffer stock of silk yarn for a month. The saree production will be affected if the protest continues further," said KSIC Managing Director Zehera Naseem.

Members of KSIC Silk Filature Employees' Association of T Narsipur said, "We have submitted memorandums to all concerned, right from local MP, MLA to the chief minister. We are protesting since the department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has started fixing boundary stones."

They said that the filature factory has high-capacity boilers and dump yard for cinder ash and therefore stadium cannot be constructed in the vicinity without closing the unit. Further, a pipeline drawing water from the river passes through the five-acre land and there won't be water supply to the unit if the stadium is constructed.

Lok Sabha member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, ex-MP Pratap Simha, extend support to the protesting employees of KSIC filature unit, at T Narsipur, Mysuru district on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

"When there is no raw material, Mysore silk sarees cannot be weaved and the employees will lose jobs. We produce a luxury product, but we do not have a luxurious life. We are fighting for a basic livelihood," the employees said.

Naseem, who met the employees told *DH* that in order to meet growing demand for Mysore silk sarees it was planned to expand the unit, and also to build an effluent treatment plant on the land in question. "So, we have informed Sericulture department secretary R Girish about our requirement for this land."

T Narsipur tahsildar T G Sureshachar said that the land has been transferred to the department of youth empowerment and sports on the instructions from the chief minister's office.

District In-charge Minister and T Narsipur MLA H C Mahadevappa said that the chief minister decided to use the land for stadium after a meeting with all ministers and officials concerned.

T Narsipur taluk in-charge KAS officer M K Savitha said that an alternative government land has not been identified for construction of stadium. "If the KSIC land is not allowed to be used, we may have to return the Rs 6-crore stadium project to the state government," she added.

B'gavi-Navi Mumbai IndiGo flights from Mar 29

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Belagavi MP Jagadish Shettar on Tuesday confirmed that IndiGo will operate flights between Belagavi and Navi Mumbai from March 29.

Shettar said he had met Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, and impressed on him the need to operate flights between Belagavi and cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Surat, Pune, etc. He said he had urged Naidu to, in turn, direct airlines to operate flights from Belagavi to other cities. The demand for reconnecting the border town with Mumbai by air has been growing louder ever since Star Air terminated services of flights it was operating between the two cities.

From March 29, a daily flight departing Mumbai at 10.20 am-landing in Belagavi at 11.35 am, and another leaving Belagavi at 5.35 pm – landing in Navi Mumbai at 6.45 pm will be operated.

Relief for Ranveer, but High Court says can't be 'loose-tongued'

Ranveer, From Page 1

The advocate, representing the actor, admitted that it was a reckless and insensitive statement. He further said the actor is not from the region and contended that a reckless/careless statement should not lead to the rigour of a criminal proceeding.

To this, the court said "a superstar is not above law".

"You were reckless. You have no right to do what you have done. No person, in the garb of talent comedy shows, has the right to hurt religious sentiments, hurt the dignity of another person," the court orally said.

The advocate for the petitioner submitted that Singh had no intention of harming any religious/cultural sentiments, but it was only appreciation and commendation of Shetty's performance.

According to the petitioner, the video clip recorded at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) fails to disclose any malicious mental element to create disharmony or disorder between two religions or community of people by registering a crime for offence under section 196, 299 and 302 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The advocate also said that the court order and reference for police investigation lacked application of mind.

"The respondent state shall not take coercive steps till the matter is heard on Monday, provided the petitioner cooperates with the investigation," Justice Nagaprasanna said, adjourning the matter to March 2.

The incident had happened on November 21, 2025, during IFFI in Goa. On stage, Singh was thanking everyone for giving an opportunity to promote his movie *Dhurandhar*. While appreciating Shetty's acting skills, he purportedly mimicked the actor for his portrayal of female deity 'Chamundi' in *Kantara*.

Kerala is Keralam now as Centre clears name change

Keralam, From Page 1

"From the time of the Independence struggle, there was a strong demand for the formation of United Kerala. But in the First Schedule to the Constitution, the name of our state is recorded as 'Kerala'. This Assembly unanimously appeal to the Central Government to take urgent steps as per Article 3 of the Constitution for modifying the name as 'Keralam'," the resolution had said.

With the Cabinet approving the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, the President will refer it to the Kerala Assembly for expressing its views under Article 3 of the Constitution. "After receipt of the views of the State Legislative Assembly of Kerala, Government of India will take further action and the recommendation of President will be obtained for introduction of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 for alteration of name of State of 'Kerala' as 'Keralam' in Parliament," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

According to Article 3, Parliament may by law alter the name of any state, but no Bill shall be introduced in Parliament except on the recommendation of the President.

It also mandates that the Bill be referred by the President to the Assembly for expressing its views within a specified time, as the President may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired.

An official statement said the matter was considered in the Ministry of Home Affairs and with the approval of Home Minister Amit Shah, a draft 'Note for the Cabinet' was circulated to the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department in the Ministry of Law and Justice for their comments. The Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, have concurred with the proposal for the alteration of the name of the state of 'Kerala' as 'Keralam', it said.

7 minor boys held for hurling stones at homes in Bhatkal

BHATKAL (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS: Tension prevailed briefly in the area surrounding Tengara Road along the Murudeshwar-Bailur Road in Bhatkal taluk on Monday night after a group of seven minor Muslim boys hurled stones at the homes of Hindu residents on Monday night.

Enraged by their actions, the residents went after the seven boys, and managed to apprehend two of them, whom they subsequently entrusted into the care of the police.

The police later traced and nabbed the other five boys involved in the incident. The stones damaged windows of several homes.

Meanwhile, activists of the Hindu Jagarana Vedike gathered in front of the Murudeshwar police station around Monday midnight demanding action not only against the seven boys but also against those who incited them.

The seven boys underwent a medical examination, which confirmed that they had acted under the influence of narcotic substances. "They will be produced before the Juvenile Justice Board," the police said.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Co-Ordination & Planning), Jayanagara Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE(COP)/BSCC/KPPP/TN-07/2025-26 Date: 24-02-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Co-Ordination & Planning, BSCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible registered Agencies in any State Govt. Organization for the Services detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1	Providing Outsourcing Skilled Employees to Public Relation Office Section of Bengaluru South City Corporation for 1 year. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 23.80, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 47,600/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **07-03-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **09-03-2026 at 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **(If possible) After Technical Bid Approval.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Co-Ordination & Planning, BSCC.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHITRADURGA-577501
(Telephone & Fax No. 08195- 200094
E-mail :ka.chitradurga.cmc@gmail.com

No.: CMC:Technical (1)/Tender:CR:18:2025-26 Date: 13-02-2026

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification

(Applications invited as per Standard Tender Document KW4 and Kw 1 Rules)

On be half of the Governor of Karnataka, Item wise Tenders are invited in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 from eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Government electrical inspectorate Department/Karnataka Public Works Department for implementation of 1 work Rejinuvetion and Development work at 20 MLD Capacity STP Plant at Pillekeranahalli in Chitradurga CMC Limit approved under "AMRUT-2 Scheme JAL-HI-AMRUT" Grant Rs.100/- Lakhs For Karnataka Public Procurement Portal documents applications can be submitted online through Department website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on the date mentioned below, obtain tender forms, Fill Them and submit only through website. No applications will be received in this office. Details are as below. In case the above mentioned dates are declared as holidays, the next days will be considered For further details contact the Engineer in the Works Department of the City Municipal Council or can be obtained from website of City Municipal Council www.chitradurgacity.mrs.gov.in G.S.T Amount will be paid separately.) (Maximum Amount Rs. 100.00 lakhs)DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55216(1) Last date for submission of Applications as per K.P.P. Portal for blank tender forms and submission of filled schedule-B 02.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM (2) Date of opening the Tender (Technical) 03.03.2026 at 5.30 PM (3) Date of opening the Tender (Financial) 04.03.2026 at 5.30 PM or After approval of Technical Bid (4) Application Fee (Non- returnable) As per K.P.P. Portal Rules

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/693/2025-26

Sd/- Municipal commissioner.
City municipal Council Chitrdurga.

KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (KSIIDC)
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"Khanija Bhavan", 4th Floor, East Wing, 49, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Tel-080-22258131-2-3
E-mail: info@ksiidc.com. **web:** www.ksiidc.karnataka.gov.in

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (KSIIDC), invites applications from eligible and experienced candidates for the following post on contract basis:

Sl. No.	Post Name	No. of Posts	Qualification & Experience	Age Limit	Consolidated Remuneration
1	Assistant General Manager (Recovery)	01	Any Bachelor's Degree / LL.B. Retired personnel who have served as Assistant General Manager Recovery/ Legal or in equivalent positions in NBFCs or Scheduled Commercial Banks.	Not exceeding 65 years	Rs.1,00,000/- per month

General Instructions:
- The appointment will be on a contract basis for a period of one year and extendable based on requirement and performance.
- Interested and eligible candidates may submit their application along with relevant testimonials.

Submission of Application:
Applications along with supporting documents may be submitted through speed post/ in person/through mail **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this notification to the above mentioned address. For Further clarification if any, please contact Mobile No: **98458-33566** and Email: **murthy.ksiidc@gmail.com**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (P&A)

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No.GIMS/KLB/TENDER/LECHALL/WORKS/CR/167/2025-26/3084 Date:-23-02-2026.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the **TURNKEY AND OTHER RELATED WORKS FOR LECTURE HALL AND SNCU AUDITORIUM AT GIMS KALABURAGI.** Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **No.GIMS/KLB/TENDER/LECHALL/WORKS/CR/167/2025-26, DATED:23/02/2026, DME/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT69**, 2) Last Date for Queries: **06-03-2026 at 17:00 pm**, 3) Pre-bid Meeting: **09-03-2026 at 12:30 pm**, 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: **23-03-2026 at 4.30 pm**, 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid: **24-03-2026 at 05:00 pm**, 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid: **25-03-2026 at 11:30 am**, 7) Tender amount: **Rs. 3,81,81,636=00**, 8) EMD: Rs. 5,72,725=00, 9) Contact Details: Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road Kalaburagi 585105. Office Email: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Land Line:08472-260252 Cell:+91 9482093568, Tender Section Email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com Cell:+91 9972688602

Sd/- Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1116/KSMC&A/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100

No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/ 5054 MDR Road/2025-26/03580 Date: 20.02.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-4

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **09-03-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **10-03-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **11-03-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **12-03-2026 @16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1146/25-26 dt. 24.02.2026

10x12

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಸಂ: 22/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–02–2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-1/2/3 ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 21–02–2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ; 27–02–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 03–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–03–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 12 ತಿಂಗಳು, ಒಟ್ಟು 7 (ಏಳು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.54.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.21.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ., ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Ph: (08537)276339/275463
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.36/25-26 Dt: 25.02.2026
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the following Tenders as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of 35 Sq.mm x 5 Core Flexible Trailing Cable FT-7 for UG use. **HGML/2025-26/IND0446**	76,500/-
2	Supply of rock breaker grizzly supporting frame. **HGML/2025-26/IND0319**	66,000/-
3	Procurement of Casuarina poles. **HGML/2025-26/IND0450**	46,000/-
4	Construction of security room at Heera-Buddini Gold Mines (SC category). **HGML/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT117/CALL-2**	12,000/-
5	Construction of rest shelter at Heera-Buddini Gold Mines. **HGML/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT133**	36,500/-
6	Construction of Hospital/Dispensary, Cap Lamp Room, Rock Mechanic Cell and Store Room at Uti Gold Mines. **HGML/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT132**	80,000/-
7	NDT and Stability Testing of UG Diesel Equipments. **HGML/2025-26/SE0081**	45,000/-

Calendar of events: (1) Last date for receipt of tender: **11.03.2026 at 4.00 P.M. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **13.03.2026 at 10.00 AM.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP portal.

Sd/- The I/c Deputy General Manager (Materials)

LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-254832 E-Mail: eeutpsmg@gmail.com
1.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2025-26 T.N. NO-36Call4
Dt: 23.02.2026

SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the under signed invites tender through kpp-portal system from eligible contractors for one(01) work coming under Head of Account 4701 Tunga Modernisation

1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is Rs.421.59 lakhs (I. No.3745 Call4) (excluding GST) **2)** Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: 27.02.2026 up to 17.30hrs. **3)** Date for submission of filled tenders from 23.02.2026 to 04.03.2026 up to 17.29 hrs (during office hours)

Further details on date of opening the tender /detail of work E.M.D. amount/terms and conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the under signed during office hours or in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone no.08182-254832 Information can be obtained through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL,U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/No.123/02/ksmca/25-26/1893

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Tariffs hit an uneasy pause

By striking down President Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs, the United States Supreme Court has asserted independence of the judiciary. The immediate consequence – the defiant president responded with a uniform 10% tariff, later increased to 15% – is another round of uncertainty for the world. The court held the tariffs illegal because the president did not have the powers to impose them under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). Trump, who called the ruling a "disgrace", has turned to the Trade Act of 1974 to impose the new tariffs; the Act allows him to sustain the tariffs up to 15%, for up to 150 days.

Countries had adopted diverse approaches to cope with disruptions brought in by the new tariffs. While some entered into bilateral agreements with the US, bringing the tariff down from the exorbitant levels prescribed by Trump, others, such as India, are in various stages of negotiations to arrive at a deal. A host of conditions and Trump's prejudices are also in play in many cases. However, the world was closer to finding a way to navigate the chaos – Trump's new response has derailed those efforts. The new tariffs are higher than what some countries had to pay, while the revised rate may also prove to be a relief for others. Those who have agreed on tariffs higher than 15% may feel they lost the bargain, but many of them are unlikely to seek a review for fear of Trump's hostility. Some are weighing their agreements against the president's displeasure. Those who are still negotiating may play for time, as India has done. The uncertainty draws on the sense that the court ruling does not mark the end of the tariff story. Trump has said that the tariffs will be back through other routes. It has also been claimed that trade-related investigations against countries on grounds such as forced labour, discrimination against US companies, etc. – all possible under the existing laws – may be used to reinstate the high tariffs.

Trump's defiance in the face of the judicial setback threatens to prolong global uncertainty

The complexities do not end there. With the tariffs rendered illegal by the court, potential refunds from the US Treasury are being estimated at about $120 billion, about 0.5% of the nation's GDP. Some of the companies have already applied for the refund. While Trump has said that the trade deal with India will remain unaffected, India has adopted a wait-and-watch policy. The world will do well to see the current situation as a mere pause, and prepare for more disruptions in the form of refashioned tariffs.

The human cost of deferred justice

The recent rebuke by the Karnataka High Court over the failure of jail authorities to produce an undertrial – remanded to judicial custody – before the court for four years should shame the criminal justice system into urgent introspection. That such neglect could persist unnoticed speaks not of an aberration, but of a systemic collapse. Worse, while the undertrial, Imran alias Kulla, was lodged in prison, the police informed the court that he was "not traceable" in another case. Justice M Nagaprasanna's blunt direction – "put your prison in order" – was accompanied by concrete action: summoning senior police and prison officers, ordering a departmental inquiry, and mandating a state-wide audit of undertrials who are not produced before courts. The reminder was unambiguous: undertrials are human beings, not files to be forgotten. This is not an isolated instance. The human cost is illustrated by multiple cases involving inmates who remain in prison after being granted bail because they are not able to furnish surety. Alongside the moral failure lies a fiscal one: forgotten undertrials cost the exchequer dear while overcrowding jails.

Despite strong judicial interventions, the system continues to fail India's undertrials

This problem is not limited to Karnataka. Undertrials constitute roughly 75% of India's prison population. Many languish behind bars because of poverty, illiteracy, and procedural indifference. The Supreme Court has repeatedly sought to correct this imbalance. Its recent insistence on retrospectively applying the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) ensures that first-time undertrials who have served one-third of their maximum sentence are released on personal bond. Under the BNSS, jail superintendents are now legally obliged to identify eligible undertrials and move courts for their release. But in reality, the judicial intent that "bail is the rule and jail the exception" often dies in administrative apathy. The contrast becomes starker when viewed against the repeated parole granted to high-profile prisoners such as Gurmeet Ram Rahim, head of Dera Sacha Sauda, convicted of rape and murder, who has spent 400 days outside prison. While influential convicts walk out on furlough with clockwork regularity, lakhs of indigent undertrials remain invisible within prison walls, even without being convicted of any crime.

Karnataka and other states must conduct a time-bound audit of all prisons, identify undertrials accused of petty offences, and release those who meet Supreme Court thresholds, particularly those who are jailed solely due to their inability to furnish surety. For the undertrials trapped in limbo, the system's failure is inexcusable; they are losing years of their life – years that cannot be regained.

A GENDER BLIND SPOT

Counting trans lives, miscounting realities

Social stigma and data gaps limit transgender enumeration in India, complicating the State's policy design

SWARUPA DEB AND KALA S SRIDHAR

In January 2026, the Karnataka government announced findings from a statewide survey on transgender persons. This is undeniably significant because the National Family Health Survey (2019-21) and the Periodic Labour Force Survey do not even enumerate transgender persons as a distinct demographic category, despite their recognition as a separate gender category by the Supreme Court of India.

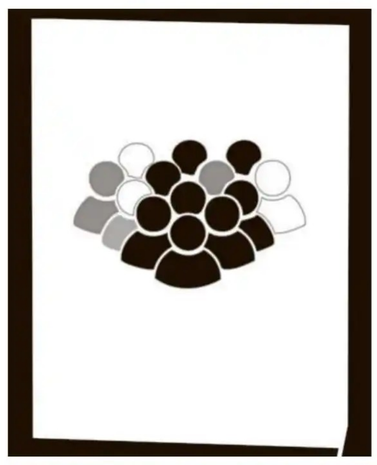
The recent Karnataka survey identified 10,365 transgender persons in the state, which is, however, only about half the population recorded in the 2011 National Census. It also significantly diverges from estimates produced by other datasets. Electoral data from the Karnataka assembly elections (2023) listed 4,927 registered transgender voters, while Election Commission figures from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls recorded 5,012 transgender electors. In contrast, community activists' macro-estimates for 2024-25 place their population at over 200,000. A recent ethnographic study conducted as part of an ongoing project at the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, finds an approximate estimate of more than 300,000 transgender people in Karnataka.

Inconsistencies are visible in other state datasets as well. The statewide transgender survey conducted in Kerala (2014-15) estimated their population at over 25,000, which is an exponential divergence from the mere 3,902 persons recorded in the 2011 Census. These inconsistencies across surveys signal layered processes of undercounting, which deepens the statistical opacity surrounding transgender population in India.

Thus, what is at stake is not merely demographic precision but persistent data inconsistency that shadows transgender realities in India. The questions that arise are: why do transgender populations appear differently across datasets? And why do the State and its enumeration regimes continue to find transgender populations difficult to count?

Why do the numbers differ? The first explanation lies in methodology. Typically, population surveys rely on door-to-door enumeration, simultaneously mapping spatial coverage and demographic triangulation across documentation systems. In contrast, relying on community outreach and voluntary disclosure makes surveys contingent on network reach and willingness to self-identify. This introduces data distortions: those outside welfare databases, facing bureaucratic barriers in updating certificates, or geographically dispersed beyond outreach clusters risk exclusion. The dataset thus becomes vulnerable to network reach and assumptions of homogeneous identity assertion, rather than ground realities.

The second explanation lies in definitional rigidity. Due to the Euro-American origin of the term 'transgender', many local non-binary identities do not neatly fit into this category. Therefore, who is counted as transgender varies across categories, welfare eligibility criteria, medical certification regimes, and community self-identification



practices. Moreover, there are significant variations in terms of individuals who currently identify as transgender; those who transition into binary male or female identities after medical or social transition; and those who occupy a liminal space within ritual and cultural frameworks. Thus, rigid definitional categories struggle to resolve who counts. In turn, it becomes a regulatory act to compress the very population into homogeneity, which it claims to represent.

Third, stigma shapes participation. Uneven response rates, due to a wariness of being included in state databases, are widely acknowledged as a structural challenge in surveys that involve gender minorities. Disclosure can carry perceived risks, ranging from employment precarity and housing discrimination to heightened institutional scrutiny. For transgender community, where historical interactions with the State have been marked by surveillance, exclusion, or bureaucratic friction, willingness to self-identify within official data systems remains understandably uneven.

Fourth, in states like Karnataka that experience a high rate of migration and mobility, demographic capture is bound to be complex, especially for transgender communities who often have limited access to structured labour markets. Consequently, they often inhabit circulatory geographies, moving between districts, informal economies, and seasonal labour networks. Thus, typical survey methods struggle to capture populations that are spatially fluid and temporally mobile.

Finally, household rejection produces statistical erasure. A significant proportion of the transgender population lacks family acceptance. Expulsion from natal homes pushes them into alternative kinship structures unrecognised by typical survey methods, rendering them demographically invisible.

These discrepancies are not technical errors. They emerge from structural conditions that make transgender lives difficult to enumerate within conventional demographic frameworks. It is also precisely what makes enumeration consequential to frameworks of recognition, resource allocation, and policy design.

Beyond the statistics

Counting matters because numbers produce policy legitimacy. Welfare boards require demographic baselines, reservations depend on quantification, and budget allocation follows population scale. Therefore, any survey of the socially and historically marginalised transgender communities must move beyond extraction towards collaboration. Such an enumeration requires partnership with community networks, involving experts, and most importantly, recognising the dynamic forms of transgender identity and a method that is informed by their realities. Without such shifts, surveys risk becoming instruments of symbolic inclusion rather than structural transformation.

While the Karnataka survey signals administrative willingness to map the welfare needs of the marginalised and produce targeted interventions, which is welcome, it also reveals the epistemic limits of demographic knowledge itself in other Indian states. Transgender lives exceed the statistical frames designed to contain them. They move across everyday experiences of precarities, kinship reconfigurations, and identity transitions that resist bureaucratic fixity. Enumeration, in this context, becomes necessary, but often insufficient. There is already a lot of work in trans scholarship which argues that AI's facial recognition software is a regulatory regime for trans people and how it perpetuates biases.

The noted inadequacies in transgender enumeration undermine the sustainable formulation of economic, housing, and social policies for them, which are missing in most Indian states. But Karnataka and Kerala provide examples for other Indian states to follow, not only to make these populations inclusive but also to contain inconsistencies in their counting, as most states move to present their budgets.

(The writers are, respectively, a post-doctoral scholar and a professor at the Institute for Social and Economic Change)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Recycling, before it was fashionable

Using things that once belonged to my siblings filled me with pride

PRAGATI NAYAK

It was a beautiful skirt and blouse set. The material was a soft cotton, and the colour was a lovely shade of pink--not a garish *mithai* pink nor a bright rani pink but a soft pastel pink. The skirt had a silver edging, and so did the collar of the blouse. It was bought for my elder sister, and she looked very nice in it.

I couldn't wait to wear it because I knew that, in a few years, it would be mine. Eight years separated us. When she outgrew it after a couple of years, I was still too small. My mother, knowing how eager I was to wear it, took up the hem and tightened the waist. Lo and behold, it became a "new" dress for me.

As the youngest of six children, I always wore my elder siblings' cast-offs. It never occurred to me to feel deprived; there was something thrilling about wearing clothes previously loved by my sisters.

We all went to the same school, so even my school uniforms were hand-me-downs. When I outgrew them, Mother stitched the thick, durable skirts into shopping bags.

My mother had a wristwatch--an HMT Sujata--which she gave to one of my sisters when she turned 16. It came to me when I turned 16. I still have it, though it is beyond repair now.

Using things that once belonged to my siblings filled me with pride. Carrying Wren and Martin's English grammar book, with the names of all six of us written inside, made me glow. The old red hardbound book was in such good condition that it put my classmates' new paperback editions with dog-eared covers to shame.

Wearing my mother's old saris gives me a thrill which no new sari can. I feel as though she is hugging me, and when I look in the mirror, I can see her.

The practice of reusing and recycling was honed to a fine art by my mother-in-law. Old T-shirts and vests turned into dusters and mops, old bedsheets and soft cotton saris were turned into quilts, and old buckets and mugs became pots for plants.

Once she used her recycling talent quite comically. She used to buy a birthday card for my father-in-law every year on his birthday. Once she found the perfect card with romantic wordings. Both of them thought the words were very apt for them, and Father-in-law really appreciated the card. So she put it away carefully, and the next year, she gave him the same card! This went on every year.

She finally put a stop to it when, in the fourth year, he remarked, "The words seem to be familiar. I think I have read them before!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Interagency coordination key to fighting terror

Apropos 'India unveils first-ever counter terrorism policy' (Feb 25), India is surrounded by hostile neighbours; the threat of terrorism, including from organisations like Al Qaeda, demands a robust response. The government's Prahaar strategy, outlined in the National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy document, aims to address transnational challenges through collaboration and stringent measures. Its effectiveness will depend on seamless interagency coordination and adaptability to evolving technology. Terrorism has both national and international ramifications and India must finetune and update its strategy periodically to counter evolving threats. The success of this policy will ultimately hinge on its implementation and the ability to stay ahead of emerging threats.
H R Bapu Satyanaryana, Mysuru

Focus on real reform

The editorial, 'Stopgap teachers and systemic neglect' (Feb 24), rightly highlights the harm caused by Karnataka universities' reliance on *ad hoc* faculty. The contractual culture harms research, teacher morale and learning outcomes for students. Transparent, time-bound permanent appointments and adequate funding are essential for real reform.
Annlynn V V, Bengaluru

Label the truth

Apropos 'Don't delay food labelling mandate' (Feb 23), delaying mandatory front of package warning labels undermines public health. With rising diabetes and obesity, consumers need clear alerts on high sugar, salt, and saturated fat. Extended consultations cannot outweigh the right to informed choice. The regulator must prioritise citizens' health over industry concerns and implement transparent warnings without further delay. It is imperative that policymakers act swiftly to protect vulnerable populations and promote healthier choices through clear labelling.
Gauri Tailong, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

We have promised the people that the coming four years will change the state of Delhi; daily new development work is being done. The government is working 24X7 in favour of the people.
Rekha Gupta, Delhi CM

The most terrifying words in the English language are, 'I am from the government and I am here to help'.
Ronald Reagan

TO BE PRECISE

First-time Congress MLAs petition high command for Karnataka Cabinet berth

IN PERSPECTIVE

Prahaar's playbook of zero tolerance

Intelligence-guided, coordinated multi-agency action is at the centre of India's first counter-terrorism policy

LT GEN S K SAINI (RETD)

The Ministry of Home Affairs has made a commendable move with the first-ever National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy, released on February 23. It sends a clear message: India will confront terrorism with zero tolerance.

When attacks occur, the local police are the first responders, with specialised State forces and the National Security Guard (NSG) stepping in to respond swiftly. Built around what has been crystallised as a 'Prahaar' strategy, the document focuses on an intelligence-led, proactive approach to prevent attacks, with agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Multi Agency Centre (MAC), and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) working behind the scenes to detect and disrupt threats.

The policy acknowledges modern dangers – from cross-border terror networks and global groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS to online radicalisation, drones, and cyber-attacks. It recognises that upholding human rights calls for updating laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. At its heart, the strategy is not just about security operations, but about safeguarding communities, countering radicalisation, strengthening international cooperation, and helping society recover and rebuild in terror-affected regions.

Any counter-terrorism doctrine needs to be dynamic and must be refined as per evolving requirements. The anti-terrorism policy is an effort in that direction – it steers clear of issues that may polarise public and political opinion. There is no single definition of terrorism that is universally acceptable, and, therefore, the document has avoided getting into its details. Terrorism is widely referred to as the intra- or international use of or threat to use violence against civilians or civilian targets to attain political/social/economic goals. Religion constitutes one of the social factors. The strategy document has rightly omitted faith-driven terrorism while unequivocally emphasising that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion, ethnicity, or nationality.

However, Prahaar falters in not codifying a tangible policy framework for hostage crises and negotiations. The policy of appeasement, as indicated by our response in the IC814 crisis, could have been reviewed. A declaratory policy of not negotiating with terrorists in such situations may be examined and incorporated in future versions of the document.

While the strategy alludes to a whole-of-society approach in combating terrorism, it is too cryptic and generic in nature. Despite multiple terrorist attacks across India, the public has largely remained indifferent to the need to be situationally aware of the threats and remain observant of suspected indicators. Police and the other law enforcement and intelligence agencies alone cannot successfully fight terrorism. Increased public awareness that enables swifter responses needs to be emphasised through police-led outreach and media campaigns. Such a change in public attitude and responses can have a positive impact on the overall security situation.

Citizen as asset

It is known that terrorists are extremely vulnerable during the process of information-gathering and reconnaissance of their intended targets. They have ended up leaving suspicious signatures that were enough to alert vigilant citizens. Building this alertness and responsiveness within the population can seriously disrupt the terrorists' designs and prevent attacks. It is important that the vigil is sustained at all times so that it becomes a second nature for the citizen. At present, these aspects are stressed upon for a few days after a terrorist attack has occurred, but soon, complacency returns.

The public can also help the police in resource control measures, an important facet of counter-terrorist operations. Terrorists are increasingly seen as using commercially available chemicals to fabricate improvised explosive devices. Any person attempting to procure such items in a large quantity should be reported to the police. The proliferation of private security agencies can help augment resources for civilian-led efforts. The police can provide this large workforce with relevant on-the-job training and incorporate them suitably in the security setup to further restrict the movement of terrorists.

Terrorism, being a global problem, requires global solutions in terms of identifying, isolating, and destroying networks and their means of sustenance. Over the years, India has managed to deter many terrorist campaigns and insurgencies. It has consistently condemned terrorism in any form, irrespective of the motive of the perpetrators, highlighting the need for greater regional and international cooperation to fight it with intent and force. India's military response has always been mature and restrained, by avoiding the use of offensive weapon systems like armoured vehicles and gunships. The new counter-terrorism policy reflects the nation's rising confidence. It is expected to retain the thrust on restraint, while establishing a framework that also addresses the tough, contemporary realities of terrorism.

(The writer is a former Vice Chief of Army Staff)

The dangerous appeal of the 'generous' criminal

BRIJESH KALAPPA

Notorious bandit, poacher, and smuggler Veerappan—whose criminal activities in the forests of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu ended in 2004—would have turned 74 last month. Wanted for the murders of over 120 people, the poaching of more than 2,000 elephants, and the smuggling of sandalwood and ivory worth millions of dollars, he evaded arrest for nearly two decades. Could he have remained at large for so long without public support? Law enforcement depends on local intelligence to track criminals. What happens when sections of the public choose instead to support them?

Though Veerappan is said to have terrorised many villagers—especially those suspected of being police informers—he also enjoyed unprecedented support. He is believed to have killed around 77 civilians "accused" of assisting the Special Task Force formed to capture him.

As early as 1989, Veerappan reportedly backed Kollegal MLA Raju Gowda, allegedly forcing villagers to vote at gunpoint. According to news reports of the period, many villagers supported him. One resident was quoted as saying, "Out of 10 villagers in the area, six would be Veerappan's informants." When the Special Task Force recovered an estimated 65 tonnes of sandalwood from Marthahalli village in 1990, some locals openly expressed pride: "He is a hero, one of us who has made it very big."

As a Tamilian in Karnataka, fresh from the anti-Tamilian sentiment sweeping the state in the wake of the Cauvery crisis, Veerappan benefited from this divide. While town populations were largely Kannada-speaking, villagers and tribal communities in the forested interiors spoke Tamil. Despite the fact that 64 of the 77 civilians he is believed to have killed were from Tamil Nadu, the average Tamil speaker continued to support him. Nearly a decade after his death, the PMK and its social base, the OBC-based Vanniyar Sangam, projected Veerappan as a youth icon at a cultural festival in Mamallapuram in 2013.

History offers other examples of criminals who cultivated public sympathy.

In November 1930, as the Great Depression gripped the United States, thousands of unemployed Chicagoans lined up at a soup kitchen opened by gangster Al Capone. This was the same man who built a multimillion-dollar empire through bootlegging, prostitution and gambling, sustained by extortion, bribes and murders. Branded "Public Enemy Number One" after the 1929 St Valentine's Day Massacre, Capone nonetheless fed hundreds daily. *Harper's Magazine* described him as "an ambidextrous giant who kills with one hand and feeds with the other."

The soup kitchen reportedly served 350 loaves of bread, 100 dozen rolls, 50 pounds of sugar and 30 pounds of coffee each day, at a cost of $300—a modest sum for Capone, whose gambling dens earned an estimated $25,000 a month. *The Daily Independent of Murphysboro*, Illinois, said, "It would be rather terrifying to see Capone run for mayor of Chicago. We are afraid he would get a tremendous vote. It is even conceivable that he might be elected after a few more stunts like his soup kitchens." Finally, public goodwill did not save him; in 1931, he was convicted of income-tax evasion.

Then there were Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, whose string of robberies, kidnappings and murders between 1932 and 1934 turned them into folk anti-heroes. It is reported that tens of thousands viewed their bodies as they lay in state at separate funeral homes. Portrayed as rebels against an economic system that failed them, some viewed them as a couple of kids who fell into a life of crime. But Bonnie and Clyde stuck together through good times and bad, and their dedication to each other made its mark on history. They eluded the police, even hunted them down – killing as many as nine of them – but were received to rapturous reception from crowds of Americans who were furious with the government in the aftermath of the Great Depression. Their popularity surged mainly in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Louisiana, as well as in areas where they committed crimes or passed through, like Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, and Indiana.

The most abhorrent of their crimes was the jailbreak of Eastham Prison Farm on January 16, 1934, when the gang succeeded in breaking out five prisoners, including their gang member Ray Hamilton. They met their end on May 23, 1934. Former Texas Ranger Captain Frank Hamer staged an ambush, and the couple was shot to death in their car in Bienville Parish, Louisiana. Despite wanting to be buried side by side, they were buried separately. Bonnie, a poet, had written these lines about their own impending fate:

They don't think they're too smart or desperate; they know that the law always wins. They've been shot at before, but they do not ignore that death is the wages of sin. Some day they'll go down together; they'll bury them side by side. To few it'll be grief, to the law a relief, but it's death for Bonnie and Clyde.

Pablo Escobar, the Colombian drug lord and leader of the Medellin Cartel, which controlled as much as 80% of the international cocaine trade, had declared war against the Colombian government, seeking to outlaw the extradition of criminals to the US. He had ordered the assassination of countless individuals, including police officers, journalists, high-ranking officials and politicians. He had meanwhile invested large sums of his fortune in charitable public works, including the construction of schools, sports fields and housing developments for the urban poor; the Colombian popular class admired him as a generous benefactor. On 2 December 1993, Escobar was hit by bullets in the torso and feet and a bullet which struck him in the head, killing him.

(The writer is an advocate in the Supreme Court and former legal advisor to the Government of Karnataka with the rank of minister)

The US and its allies have spilled blood and treasure to kill drug lords and defeat cartels, but the drugs keep coming and the new groups are more violent than ever

MARIA ABI-HABIB

A burned car in Guadalajara following the capture and killing of Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes. Drug lords have been killed or captured, and cartels have splintered or collapsed, only to see more violent ones replace them and the illicit trade expand. NYT

After six decades of the war on drugs, what works?

Drug lords have been killed or captured, and cartels have splintered or collapsed, only to see more violent ones replace them and the illicit trade expand.

So, in nearly 60 years of the war on drugs, what has actually worked?

On Sunday, the Mexican military killed Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, known as El Mencho, the leader of one of the world's largest drug cartels.

It is called the Jalisco cartel, and its reach can be felt in nearly every corner of the globe. It is more of a conglomerate than a single entity, composed of dozens of groups spread across Mexico that do everything from growing the avocados used in Americans' guacamole to smuggling migrants into the United States and, of course, trafficking drugs.

As Mexican and US officials wait to see what lies ahead for the cartel — whether a successor is quickly appointed or it devolves into infighting over who assumes the leadership — one thing appears likely: El Mencho's death alone is not the end of the group.

The group's full name, the Jalisco New Generation cartel, underscores its ambition and how deeply rooted it is in Mexico. Eradicating it requires a more patient, long-term approach than killing or capturing one man, analysts say.

"They created a new generation of doing things differently," said Carlos Pérez Ricart, an expert at the Centre for Economic Research and Teaching, a Mexican research group. "They employed a mode of violence that was very calculated and instrumental. It was narco-terrorism."

Pérez, like other analysts, said that each new generation of cartel members tends to be more violent than its predecessors, as a way to assert authority. With every new generation, what was once unthinkable becomes the new norm.

The gratuity of the violence — rivals are beheaded, their bodies displayed in public parks — is the point, they said. It becomes the new standard, a gruesome way of outdoing rivals.

"Today's leaders have a much lower life expectancy," Pérez said. "Their education is also lower and their attachment to the territory they work in is now almost zero." One result is an especially ruthless detachment from the suffering of the local population.

Mexico is now fighting what may turn out to be one of the bloodiest and consequential wars against the cartels in its history, analysts say.

Since 2024, the Mexican government has been bogged down in the north, fighting the Sinaloa cartel. Now, the government has opened up a second front, against the Jalisco New Generation cartel, based in western Mexico but with branches throughout. The two Mexican cartels, archrivals, are arguably the world's most powerful drug organisations.

Perhaps the most comparable battle against drug trafficking was during President Felipe Calderón's presidency, which ended in 2012. But back then, the government was mostly taking on a single cartel, Los Zetas, and that fight was concentrated in northern Mexico.

The histories of the cartels offer important reminders of how resilient they can be, even when the government makes major strides against them.

The Sinaloa cartel, after all, did not go away after its chief, Joaquín Guzmán Loera, the notorious drug lord known as El Chapo, was captured and extradited to the United States.

And the Jalisco cartel itself was born from the ruins of another drug group, the Milenio cartel, which disintegrated into infighting after its leadership was captured and killed.

By 2009, Oseguera, the Jalisco leader killed Sunday, had emerged on top — in part because if his willingness to embrace spectacular levels of violence to defeat his enemies.

Rather than simply going after kingpins like Oseguera, authorities need to take a holistic approach to dismantle these groups more completely, according to analysts.

The Mexican government has to use a combination of force on the ground and smart investigative work to defeat the Jalisco cartel, former diplomats say. It is a model similar to the one Colombia adopted beginning in the 1990s.

Midlevel commanders need to be targeted, since they provide critical links between the top leadership and the cartel's boots on the ground, analysts and diplomats say.

And when it comes to the Jalisco cartel, its sprawling business empire and hidden financial network must also be unwound, they note. That investigative capability, however, is still being built up by Mexico's government.

That is where the United States may be most useful, experts say. On Sunday, the Mexican military credited US officials with sharing vital intelligence that allowed its troops to capture and kill Oseguera.

"We have the best technical intelligence, and local partners in Mexico and Colombia have the best human, on-the-ground intelligence," said Todd Robinson, a former assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and law enforcement at the State Department.

"And if you have that and a government that is willing to fight corruption, you can get positive results," he said.

Colombia's initial success battling the cartels in the 1990s offers a good lesson for Mexico, former US diplomats familiar with both countries say.

Back then, the Colombian government deployed its security forces to capture and kill high-ranking cartel members, while also increasing its investigative capacities to unravel the groups' hidden financial infrastructure. It also strengthened the judicial system to end impunity.

After Colombia largely brought down the country's kingpins in that decade, the United States helped the government there expand its authority across the country.

For every dollar the US spent, Colombia spent three, Robinson said. It was part of an effort to eradicate coca crops and bring schools, roads and other economic incentives to remote communities where the government had dislodged drug trafficking groups.

But the government was not able to expand its authority to all parts of the country. In the vacuum, guerrilla groups took over cocaine production and trafficking. Cocaine production exploded across the country about a decade ago, analysts say.

The Mexican government needs to immediately start working across municipalities and states to dislodge the Jalisco cartel and start exerting authority, Robinson said. But historically, Mexico's federal governments have been reluctant to work with political rivals, creating a patchy security response that provides safe havens in which cartels can operate.

"Mexico is not traditionally good at that," Robinson said. "The ruling party tends to support the governor or mayor that are part of their party, and leave those mayors who are from the opposition alone to fend for themselves against the cartels."

In contrast, the Jalisco cartel works closely with dozens of smaller criminal groups to exert its muscle across the country and challenge the government's authority.

On Sunday, the cartel was able to showcase its strength and territorial reach when it set fires to banks and storefronts and blocked roads and highways in some 13 states across Mexico. In many states, the Mexican government failed to respond.

The New York Times

Overthinking and the psychology of peak performance

ARJUN RAMACHANDRA

As a manager in a leading MNC, you're worried. Tomorrow is a high-stakes client presentation that could clinch a major project; every slide is reviewed, every objection anticipated, and the pitch rehearsed to perfection. Now it is time to relax but instead you feel nervous and underconfident: What if the client spots a gap? Or worse, challenge the assumptions? What if we lose this deal?

Or perhaps you are switching jobs. The interview tomorrow feels make-or-break. You have prepared relentlessly, and bring years of experience. Yet anxiety floods in: What if I mess up? What if stronger candidates apply? What happens to my family if I don't get this?

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Overthinking is the mind's tendency to inflate situations and their consequences far beyond their true importance in the larger arc of life. Managing people and organisations begins with managing ourselves -- and that includes managing overthinking.

Overthinking has been increasingly recognized as a major contributor to stress and underperformance in high-stakes situations. Even seasoned professionals are vulnerable. University of Chicago psychologist Sian Beilock has studied "choking" moments in sports, including golfer Greg Norman's choke at the 1996 US Masters, after brilliant performance on the first three days. In her book *Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal About Getting It Right When You Have To*, she writes: "In a nutshell, paralysis by analysis occurs when people try to control every aspect of what they are doing in an attempt to ensure success, only to disrupt what was once a fluid, flawless performance.

That is where overthinking begins: over-effort, over-control, and eventually, paralysis.

So, why do we overthink? Often from a fixation on outcomes rather than the activity itself. The *Bhagavad Gītā* (18.24) uses the term *bahulā ayāsam* for action performed with excessive effort -- physical, mental or both--driven by the belief that outcomes depend entirely on personal effort and therefore feels entitled to the results. Another well-known verse (2.47), however, invites a different stance: recognising the larger framework within which our actions unfold and the many factors beyond our effort that shape outcomes. This acknowledgement leads one to mentally detach from the fruits of action (*mā phaleṣu kadācana*) and the belief that we are wholly responsible for the outcomes (*mā karma-phala-hetur bhūr*), while continuing to perform our duties with enthusiasm and diligence (*mā te saṅgo 'stv akarmaṇi*).

This shift in perspective can dramatically ease high-pressure stress. But how does one practise it? The answer is surprisingly simple: consciously redirect attention from the immediate pressure to something you love to do. Sian Beilock's research shows that even a simple trick such as singing or whistling prior to or during a critical moment can ease stress and help us perform more smoothly. Or better still, meditation can help quieten the turbulent mind and restore steadiness. Such positive distraction reconnects us with the larger picture and loosens the grip of the momentary anxiety. We are still in the thick of action but no longer obsessed with outcomes: letting go of the invisible mental strings that crave for success and fear failure, we experience joy. In this state of mind, we act more naturally, simply because we're internally relishing the act itself, instead of merely using it as a means to the end.

One may wonder, is it then better not to set goals or be ambitious? Not really. On the contrary, a goal-less endeavour lacks the motivation required to act. Setting and pursuing goals is essential, but being overwhelmed by them isn't.

It is wiser to absorb our consciousness in the immediate task at hand and let the goal recede to the background, remaining in view, but not consuming us. The *Gītā* (18.23) explains that such regulated action performed without attachment, love or hatred, and without desire for fruitive results is in the mode of goodness, leading to true clarity, contentment and peace.

So the next time your mind spirals into overthinking, pause, reflect on the timeless words of the *Gītā* and reconnect to the larger picture of your life. And remember: overthinking about overthinking is still overthinking.

(The writer is a professor, Decision Sciences, at IIM Bangalore)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

Opposition must behave for Emergency to go

Aurangabad, February 24
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said today that the Government could consider lifting the Emergency provided an assurance came from the Opposition parties to observe discipline and to change their stand on *satyagrahas* and agitations. According to her information, however, the Opposition parties, whose activities were responsible for the proclamation of Emergency, had not changed their decisions on these issues. They were only lying low and awaiting the first opportunity to revive their tactics, she said.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

CM snubs politicians for opposing BATF

Bangalore, Feb 24
Chief Minister S M Krishna today snubbed the City's elected representatives, including corporators, who are opposing the Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF) saying they would realise the purpose behind establishing BATF when the City's infrastructure improves gradually. Addressing the second summit of BATF stakeholders here, the chief minister said, "We have reiterated time and again that BATF's aim is to coordinate the overall development of the City through sustained efforts."

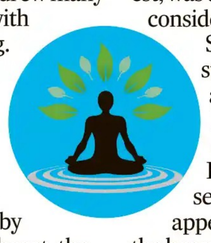
OASIS | ADOLF WASHINGTON

Aligning your heart with God's

Do you value and appreciate a person from the qualities of heart or from outward stature or appearance?

A pastor of a large Church wanted a new worship leader. Polished musicians with impressive voices, attractive appearances and vast experience were interviewed. One candidate, tall, charismatic and well-dressed, seemed worthy. But the pastor, prompted in prayer, delayed the selection.

One evening, Joseph, an elderly Church gardener, after hours of de-weeding and watering the Church garden, led a small prayer group in worship. Joseph's voice was rough and unpolished, his hands and face worn from years of work, but his heartfelt worship brought hope and tears of joy to the group. God showed the Pastor a true worship leader. Joseph drew many more people closer to God with his simple, authentic leading.



In a world that worships the mirror and the measuring tape, do we pause at the polished surface—captivated by flawless features and commanding stature—or do we lean closer, drawn by the quiet fire of a generous heart, the invisible strength of kindness and the rare faith and courage that refuses to dim? In The Bible, David, the shepherd-boy was chosen to be king over Israel. His father, Jesse, lines-up seven of his sons before Prophet Samuel, but God rejects them all. David, the youngest, was tending the flock, not initially considered worthy by his own father.

Samuel was impressed with the stature of the eldest brother Eliab, but God declares "Do not look upon his appearance or on the height of his stature... For The Lord sees not as man sees: Man looks on the outward appearance, but The Lord looks on the heart"(I Samuel 16:7).

When David arrives, God tells Samuel, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he" (I Samuel 16:12). After the anointing,The Spirit of The Lord comes upon David powerfully from that day forward.

David was chosen not for his strength or status, but because his heart was aligned with God's, a "man after God's own heart" (I Samuel 13:14)

We may be either constantly trying to impress people and win their praise and appreciation or are being impressed by others. We may sometimes find ourselves so swayed by social media 'likes', 'star ratings', 'shares', 'forwards' and 'comments' that we become addictively busy looking 'around' for 'people's praises' instead of looking 'above' for 'God's endorsement'.

With whom or what are you aligned?

From Kerala to Keralam, BJP sees a win in election-bound state

Name-change decision may see parties stake claim for political mileage

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Centre's decision to accept Kerala's long-pending demand to rename the state 'Keralam' has been widely welcomed, with political parties set to vie with each other to claim credit for the change.

The state Assembly had passed resolutions on the name change in 2024 and earlier. The Centre's decision, however, came soon after BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month.

Calling the Union Cabinet's approval of the name change a "historic step in honouring the state's linguistic, cultural, and civilisational roots", Chandrasekhar said he had urged the Modi government to consider the change and was happy that the voice and sentiment of Malayalees had been respected.

"Calling our state Keralam is truly appropriate because we are committed to being a state that protects its rich traditions and culture while also building a modern, forward-looking economy," he said in a social media post.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also made a social media post in Malayalam, hailing the decision as a major step towards fulfilling a long-pending demand of the people of the state.

Apart from the resolutions passed by the state government, many writers and cultural activists had also been seeking the name change for quite some time.

Writer and activist MN Karassery told *DH* that he has consistently used 'Keralam' even in English over the years. He said he was happy that the Centre had finally decided to make it official.

In a witty note, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor asked what would happen to terms like 'Keralite' and 'Keralan' once Kerala becomes Keralam.

"Keralamite sounds like a microbe and Keralamian like a rare earth mineral. CMO Kerala might want to launch a competition for new terms resulting from this electoral zeal," he said in a social media post.

In Malayalam, the state's name is already used as Keralam, whereas in English and other languages it appears as Kerala, as listed in the First Schedule of the Constitution.

BJP-CPM understanding behind renaming: Mamata

NEW DELHI, DHNS: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday renewed the demand for renaming West Bengal as 'Bangla' as the Union government gave its green signal for changing Kerala's name to 'Keralam', a decision which she attributed to an "alliance growing" between the BJP and CPM.

Mamata Banerjee

She accused the BJP government of not approving West Bengal's proposal because of being "anti-Bengali".

Mamata's quick response is seen as Trinamool's attempt to raise the decibel levels against the BJP in poll-bound West Bengal, where her party has been accusing the saffron camp of insulting Bengal icons.

"Kerala has been renamed since there is an alliance growing between the BJP and the CPM. The alliance is no longer unwritten after today. Why does Bengal always face deprivation? One day, you [BJP] will not be in power. We will get the name changed," she said.

'Called at end'

"When our students go for exams or interviews, they are called at the end since the name of the state begins with 'W', which comes at the end alphabetically. I too face the same problem. I get the chance to speak at the end as I am the CM of West Bengal," the chief minister said.

"Based on the culture of the state, we wanted to rename West Bengal as Bangla. In this regard, we have passed resolutions twice in the Legislative Assembly. After we were told that the name of the state should be the same in Hindi, Bengali and English, we passed a resolution again to rename the state as Bangla in all three languages," Banerjee said.

Youth Congress chief Uday Chib arrested over AI Summit protest

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib was arrested on Tuesday morning after questioning in connection with the T-shirt protest at the 'India AI Impact Summit', drawing sharp criticism from the Congress, with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi calling the police action "proof of dictatorial tendencies and cowardice".

The youth leader, whom the police described as the "main conspirator and mastermind", was picked up for questioning on Monday for the second time. Police have already arrested seven Youth Congress activists, including three from Gwalior.

Police claimed that Chib's associates raised "anti-national slogans" and "tried to incite riot-like situations" at the venue. They further alleged that Chib did not cooperate with the probe and did not disclose the names of other co-accused or the source of printing the T-shirts used in the protest.

Chib, who was not present at the venue during the protest, was produced before a court, which sent him to four days' police custody after rejecting his counsel's argument that he had cooperated with the probe and was not on the run. Police argued that the conspiracy went beyond printing T-shirts with slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Assam woman allegedly raped by seven; 1 held

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Police in South Assam's Silchar city arrested a man following an FIR lodged by a woman on February 19, alleging gangrape and extortion by seven to eight people.

Rajat Kumar Pal, Additional SP of Cachar district, said on Tuesday that the accused, identified as Nilotpal Das, a resident of Ashram Para in Silchar, was arrested. The woman was medically examined based on her complaint.

She alleged that a group of seven to eight people stopped her car on the Silchar bypass highway on the night of February 19 and sexually assaulted her. She also claimed the accused snatched Rs 10,000 from her.

"We have seized the vehicle, and efforts to catch the remaining accused are on. We are also awaiting the victim's medical examination report from Silchar Medical College and Hospital," Pal said.

Silchar, the district headquarters of Cachar, is located about 400 km from Guwahati.

"We have obtained some clues about the whereabouts of the remaining accused and are working to arrest them," he added.

Over 1,300 houses razed in Rajkot's demolition drive

RAJKOT (GUJARAT), PTI: More than 1,300 houses have been razed by the civic authorities in Gujarat's Rajkot city as part of a mega demolition drive to clear illegal settlements along the Aji River, officials said on Tuesday.

The Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) launched the drive on Monday to remove over1,400 illegal settlements in the 2.5-km area of Jangleshwar along the river under tight security. As of 2 pm on Tuesday, the RMC has demolished around 1,350 houses, civic chief Tushar Sumera said.

Apart from more than 65 earth-excavating machines, extra-large hydraulic excavators have been deployed to raze palatial bungalows

Charter operators face stricter DGCA rules

Regulator says lapses can't be simply blamed on pilots

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Asserting that safety lapses cannot "simply be blamed" on pilots, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday unveiled a strict safety mechanism for non-scheduled flight operators in the wake of the recent crashes, which includes mandatory public disclosure of aircraft maintenance history and pilot experiences and a new safety ranking.

The decisions came at a meeting, which was held to "address a recent surge in aviation incidents and emphasised the critical need for an increased focus on safety across the sector", held by DGCA with non-scheduled operators here, a day after a plane crashed in Jharkhand.

It also came following a comprehensive review of accident data from the past decade, which identified non-adherence to SOPs, inadequate flight planning and training deficiencies as the "primary causative factors" in aircraft accidents. On January 28, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others died in a plane crash near Baramati.

Insisting on a zero-tolerance policy toward safety compromises, the DGCA said safety must remain the "absolute priority superseding all commercial considerations, charter commitments or VIP movements". It said the Pilot-in-Command's decision to "divert, delay, or cancel a flight for safety reasons is final and must be respected by operators".

Emphasising transparency, the DGCA is introducing a mandatory public disclosure of critical safety information on its website about aircraft age, maintenance history, and pilot experience, which the regulator said ensures that customers have full knowledge about the standards of the aircraft they charter.

It will also come up with a safety ranking on the DGCA website, besides having intensive audits, including random cockpit voice recorder audits and cross-verify ADS-B data, fuel records and technical logs to detect unauthorised operations.

Pilots found violating Flight Duty Time Limitations or attempting to land below safety minima may face licence suspensions up to five years. There will be increased monitoring by DGCA on older aircraft and those undergoing ownership changes.

After completion of the first phase of the special safety audit of NSOPs in early March, the second phase will be undertaken.

SAFETY MEASURES

- Senior leadership to be held responsible for non-compliances
- DGCA to conduct intensive audits, including increased random CVR audits, fuel records and technical logs
- NSOPs to have safety ranking
- Pilots to face stricter penalties, even suspension of licenses, for non-compliance
- Operators asked to establish real-time weather update systems

Ajit Pawar crash: Four VSR aircraft grounded for several lapses

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Cracking the whip, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday ordered the "immediate grounding" of four aircraft operated by VSR Ventures, whose plane crashed in Baramati last month, killing Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others.

The action follows a special safety audit conducted by the DGCA after the crash of the company's Learjet 45 aircraft (VT-SSK) on January 28.

In a statement, the DGCA said its multi-disciplinary audit team found several instances of non-compliance with approved procedures in the areas of airworthiness, flight safety and operations.

"In view of the non-compliances observed and gaps in maintenance procedures, it has been decided to initiate corrective measures by immediately grounding Learjet 40/45 aircraft bearing registration numbers VT-VRA, VT-VRS, VT-VRV and VT-TRI until continued airworthiness standards are restored," the statement said.

Deficiency reporting forms have been issued to VSR Ventures, seeking a root cause analysis of the lapses. The DGCA will assess the submissions before deciding on the next course of action.

Meanwhile, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is expected to release its preliminary report into the crash before February 28, even as some quarters have raised the possibility of a conspiracy.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and others during the 'Kisan Mahachaupal' farmers' rally, in Bhopal, on Tuesday. PTI

Cong launches nationwide stir against India-US trade deal

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Tuesday launched its nationwide protest against the India–US trade deal in Bhopal, with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi daring Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap the agreement that party chief Mallikarjun Kharge described as one that "mortgages" India's interest.

Addressing the first 'Kisan Maha-Chaupal' farmers' rally, Rahul alleged that Modi "sold the country" to "save his image and political future" and "save himself from threats", while Kharge claimed that the Prime Minister has reduced the country's "dignity to dust" by pushing farmers into "subjugation".

Recalling the stalemate in Parliament over not allowing him to speak in the Lok Sabha after referring to former Army Chief Gen MM Naravane's remarks on the India-China row, he said he was also to speak about the Epstein Files and the case against industrialist Gautam Adani, but he could not do so. He claimed that the episode prompted Modi to rush to sign the deal with the US.

Arguing that the deal was not in the interest of the country, he referred to the US Supreme Court order nullifying Trump's tariff regime and said, "I challenge PMModi, cancel the trade deal. If you have the guts, do it. But he cannot do that. There is pressure on him. The threat of Epstein Files is there. The case against Adani is hanging over his head."

Rahul claimed that the trade deal was stalled for four months because farmers, farm workers and even the government did not want it. "I can give in writing that if there was no pressure, no threats, then Modi also would not have signed this deal. He has sold India to save his image and political future. He wants to save himself from threats. No one can save him," he said.

He said the reason why Modi rushed to sign the deal was that there are 30 lakh emails, messages and videos in the Epstein Files yet to be released. Already, he said, the names of Union Minister Hardeep Puri and industrialist Anil Ambani are there in the Files.

"Puri's name was released to threaten him that if he does not fall in line, stuff from those files will be released. Anil Ambani is not my friend. Modi should tell us what his relationship with Anil Ambani is. Adani is not a small company; it is the BJP's financial structure. Adani faces criminal charges in the US. The target of the case in the US is Modi, not Adani," he said.

Kharge alleged Modi was pushing farmers into slavery and that he has never seen a PM so timid that he cannot even look another person in the eye in Parliament. "He speaks his mind on Sundays but doesn't come to Parliament on Mondays," he alleged. He alleged that the BJP tries to intimidate and abuse Congress and harasses the Youth Congress, but one should remember that they will never be scared.

Govt blocks 5 OTT platforms for streaming obscene content

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Taking stern action against online obscene content, the government on Tuesday blocked five OTT platforms.

According to officials, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed that access to *MoodXVIP*, *Koyal Playpro*, *Digi Movieplex*, *Feel*, and *Jugnu* be blocked. The move is in line with Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which empowers the government to block online content for various reasons.

Under this procedure, internet service providers are instructed to restrict access to platforms that violate the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Expelled AIADMK leader Sasikala floats new party

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

On the birth anniversary of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, former AIADMK interim general secretary V K Sasikala on Tuesday launched a new political party without revealing its name, but did not say whether her outfit would contest the April-May Assembly elections.

At a rally in Pasumpon in Ramanathapuram district, Sasikala tore into AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, accusing him of troubling her at the Parappana Agrahara prison where she underwent four years of imprisonment.

The venue for the rally was also significant—a village near Pasumpon, the birthplace of U Muthuramalinga Thevar, an icon of the Mukulathors, the community to which she belongs—as Sasikala flexed her political muscle after having "stepped aside" during the 2021 elections, allegedly at the behest of the BJP.

VK Sasikala

Though she attacked EPS, Sasikala expects a couple of Assembly seats in the NDA for Sasikala's supporters; failing that, the expelled AIADMK leader might field candidates in select constituencies. Though she cannot contest polls till 2027 due to her conviction in a disproportionate assets (DA) case, Sasikala believes her camp can make a difference by fielding candidates at least in constituencies where Mukulathors hold the key.

Sasikala's nephew T T V Dhinakaran, who heads the AMMK, has re-joined the NDA and has declared his former bete noire Edappadi K Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial nominee, while another expelled AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam is still holding cards close to his chest.

Though Sasikala is not seen as a representative of Mukulathors, who are spread across central and southern TN, it is a fact that her association with Jayalalithaa brought the community closer to the AIADMK.

Sasikala, who controlled the AIADMK from the sidelines for three decades as a friend and advisor to Jayalalithaa, has lost her support base with no senior leader joining her camp after she was released from jail in 2021. Her efforts to rejoin the AIADMK also failed, with the party's general secretary Palaniswami stonewalling them.

Coolant leak from tankers behind Andhra milk deaths

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh officials suspect coolant leakage from a chilling tanker caused the milk adulteration that killed four in Rajamahendravaram. Preliminary tests confirmed that ethylene glycol, a toxic cooling agent, leaked into the supply.

Residents of Chowdeswari Nagar and Sawroopnagar fell ill after consuming contaminated milk since February 16. Ethylene glycol is a colourless, odourless, sweet-tasting organic compound commonly used as antifreeze in vehicle radiators, coolants, and de-icing fluids.

Four deaths have been confirmed, and 12 others are undergoing treatment, including two on ventilators, from acute renal failure over the last 48 hours. District Medical Health Officer Dr V Venkateswararao said mostly elderly over 60 were admitted since Saturday night with vomiting, distress, and reduced urination.

On February 15, residents complained to vendor Addala Venkata Ganesh about sour milk> He has been detained.

State Health Commissioner M Veerapandian said that no urea contamination appears in samples. "Urea causes immediate kidney/liver damage; only long-term use triggers failure and urinary blockage, experts noted. Ethylene glycol contamination produces severe symptoms within 3-4 days. All steps ensured optimal hospital care, and there are no new cases on Tuesday," he said.

Officials collected samples of leftover curd, ghee, vinegar, and milk from victims' homes and sent them for testing.

NEW PMO ADDRESS

At Seva Teerth, Cabinet resolves to push India into top-3 economies

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, held its first meeting on Tuesday at the newly inaugurated Seva Teerth complex — the new Prime Minister's Office — and adopted a resolution to fulfil the government's goal of placing India among the world's top three economies in the near future.

"The Cabinet takes a firm resolve that with the new energy of 'Seva Teerth' and the rapid pace of the 'Reform Express,' we will fulfil our commitment to secure India's place among the top three economies of the world in the near future," a statement said.

"The Union Cabinet again dedicated itself to the national resolve of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. This is a long-term national journey, in which the decisions taken today will determine the future shape of coming generations," the resolution said.

The Cabinet also resolved that every decision taken in the premises will be inspired by the sentiment of 'Nagrik Devo Bhava' and that this place will not be a centre for the display of power, but rather a centre for the empowerment of every Indian.

Spirit of service

According to the resolution, termed the 'Seva Sankalp Resolution', every decision taken in the new building will be inspired by a spirit of service towards 1.4 billion citizens and will be connected to the broader goal of nation-building.

Reading out the resolution at a cabinet briefing, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the work culture at Seva Teerth will be guided by the spirit of the fundamental ethos of the Constitution, and every decision will be accountable to the aspirations of the people.

The 'Seva Teerth' is the answer to the need for governance infrastructure that promotes dynamism instead of stagnation, dedication instead of indifference, and solutions instead of doubt, the cabinet resolved, the statement said.

Amid 'Pak links' row, Gogoi gets key Parl role

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Amid Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's allegations about Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi and his family's alleged Pakistan links, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday appointed the Jorhat MP as chairman of the India-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship Group.

On Tuesday, Birla had constituted several Parliamentary Friendship Groups comprising members of the 18th Lok Sabha. The initiative aims to strengthen diplomatic relations and build closer ties with countries worldwide.

The timing of Gogoi's appointment gave the Opposition in Assam fresh ammunition to counter CM Sarma's allegations ahead of the Assembly elections slated for April.

Gogoi is also the Deputy Leader of the Congress Legislature Party in the Lok Sabha.

Gaurav Gogoi

Reacting to the development, Debabrata Saikia, leader of the Congress Legislature Party in the Assam Assembly, said Gogoi's appointment by Speaker Birla sent a clear message of trust in him at both national and international levels, and showed that even the Centre was not giving weight to Sarma's allegations.

"This is a fitting reply and proves that the politics of misinformation has been defeated. The chief minister made desperate attempts to portray Gogoi as an agent of Pakistan.

Questioning the patriotism of an elected MP for political gain, misleading public opinion through baseless allegations, and indulging in propaganda-driven politics are extremely harmful for democracy," Saikia said.

Saikia demanded an unconditional apology from Sarma and the ruling BJP for making "baseless" allegations against Gogoi and his wife.

On February 8, Sarma held a press conference in Guwahati where he released a report prepared by a Special Investigation Team into the allegations. He claimed that Gogoi and his British wife, Elizabeth Colburn, had visited Pakistan and had "direct links" with the country.

Hours after Birla's notification of Gogoi's appointment, the BJP on Thursday stepped up its attacks on the Congress MP, saying he represented "pro-Miya" ideologies. In Assam, Bengali-speaking Muslims are derogatorily referred to as Miyas.

'Kerala Story 2' depicts secular state in wrong light, says HC

KOCHI, PTI: The Kerala High Court on Tuesday observed that *The Kerala Story 2 - Goes Beyond* depicts a state like Kerala where everyone lives in communal harmony in a wrong light.

The court also observed that using the state's name and claiming the film is based on true facts can lead to communal tensions in the state.

The observations came from Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas while hearing arguments on three separate pleas seeking to quash the certificate for public viewing granted to *The Kerala Story 2 - Goes Beyond*.

When the matter came up again in the post-lunch session, the court was told that the producers were willing to withdraw the film's teasers.

The court, thereafter, said it will hear the matter again on Wednesday, when it is likely to decide whether to see the movie before its scheduled release on February 27.

Surrendered Maoist leader eyes politics

Tippiri Tirupati and Sangram join mainstream

NEXT CHAPTER

- Devji, underground for 44 years, signals plans to enter politics
- Sangram rules out parliamentary politics
- Devji cites health reasons for surrender, stresses service to people
- Telangana DGP assures surrendered cadres full support under state's rehabilitation programme

Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy along with other seniors officers and surrendered CPI (Maoists) leaders, including Tippiri Tirupati alias Devji and Malla Raji Reddy alias Sangram, in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

CPI (Maoist) top commander Tippiri Tirupati alias Devji and Central Committee Member Malla Raji Reddy alias Sangram, who surrendered before the Telangana Police two days ago, formally joined the mainstream on Tuesday. Devji signalled his intention to enter politics soon.

Devji had been underground for 44 years, while Raji Reddy spent 46 years in hiding. Security officials said that had they remained in the Karreguttalu area, central forces were prepared to eliminate them under Operation Kagar or the newly launched Operation Black Forest II.

The 62-year-old Devji emerged from the jungle sporting a thick moustache and dressed in a tucked-in white shirt, formal trousers, and sneakers. He vowed to fight for people's rights within the legal framework, but steered clear of discussing the Naxal hierarchy, citing concerns for his future political career.

"Due to health reasons, I have decided to give up my underground life and join the mainstream, but not for personal gain. I will continue serving the people according to principles I've believed in for decades. I intend to enter politics soon and launch struggles for public concerns. I cannot answer all your questions. I want to pursue a political life, so I'm not sharing details that might hinder my responses or my political future," Devji told reporters on Tuesday.

A native of Korutla town in Jagtial district, Devji married fellow Naxal Arike Jaini alias Srujana in January 1991. She was killed in 2020 during an exchange of fire in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district.

While Devji eyes a political career, Malla Raji Reddy has ruled it out. "We will work together on behalf of the people regarding their problems. Our aim is not to enter the parliamentary system. We assure support for people's struggles whenever opportunities arise. Maoism will never end — it continues to grow worldwide," Reddy told reporters.

Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy said all underground CPI (Maoist) cadres joining the mainstream will receive full support, protection, and assistance under the state's Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme, enabling peaceful and dignified lives.

While encounters have eliminated Naxals elsewhere, Telangana focused on surrenders, and the state police Special Intelligence Wing succeeded in contacting these leaders and convincing them to surrender.

Devji rose from Radical Students Union (RSU) president to Central Committee Member in the banned CPI (Maoist). He was informally designated general secretary after Nambala Kesava Rao's death in a May encounter, but the Central Committee — the party's highest decision-making body — could not convene for ratification due to sustained security operations.

'Headless, rudderless': CPI (Maoist) in tatters

ANTI-INSURGENCY

- Top leaders' surrender signals end of six-decade arm insurgency
- Telangana Police identify about 11 Naxals of state origin currently active in other state units of the banned CPI (Maoist)
- Officials plan to work with surrendered leaders to persuade the remaining cadres to return to mainstream

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The surrender of top leader Tippiri Tirupati and first-generation Naxal veteran Malla Raji Reddy has left the banned CPI (Maoist) without leadership or direction, signalling the end of the armed insurgency that began in Naxalbari, West Bengal, in 1967 — at least in Telangana. For over six decades, leaders from undivided Andhra Pradesh and Telangana provided strategic guidance to the violent movement.

Telangana Police have identified about 11 Naxals of state origin currently active in other state units of the banned outfit. Officials plan to work with surrendered leaders to persuade the remaining cadres, including those in Jharkhand and Odisha, to return to the mainstream.

"There are 11 Telangana natives still underground, including Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathy. Of the remaining 10, only one or two are active. I appeal to them to lay down arms and surrender. The movement that began in Telangana is nearly over here," said DGP B Shivadhar Reddy.

He declared that the banned party is "headless, rudderless and leaderless". "Now nobody is leading the Maoist party. It is almost in tatters. To the best of my knowledge, there is no regrouping — they may simply be moving from one place to another to evade the police's combing operations," said Reddy.

Roots and rise

The Naxalite movement, in decline since Operation Kagar, took root in Telangana's socio-economically deprived regions of undivided Andhra Pradesh, especially among Dalits and Adivasis. Tribal belts plagued by underdevelopment and exploitation became insurgent hotspots in the 1970s and 1980s.

In 2004, CPI (Maoist) was formed through the merger of Andhra-based People's War Group (PWG) and Bihar-West Bengal's Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI).

Undivided Andhra produced key leaders, from schoolteacher Kondapalli Seetharamaiah, who founded PWG in 1980, to Srikakulam's Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju, general secretary until his death in a May encounter.

From the mid-2000s, Andhra's elite Greyhounds force turned the tide, driving leaders underground into Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand or neutralising them. Though operations waned in Andhra, Telugu cadres retained influence in Dandakaranya and Jharkhand.

Key Telugu leaders include Karimnagar's Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathy, general secretary until 2018. Ill health forced him to hand over command to Basavaraju. Intelligence sources suggest Ganapathy is no longer in the forests.

Gujarat HC acquits former DGP in custodial torture case

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: The Gujarat high court on Tuesday acquitted former Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) SS Khandwawala in a 50-year-old custodial torture case.

The court set aside the order of a lower court, which had found him guilty and sentenced him to five years of imprisonment.

Justice Gita Gopi pronounced the judgment acquitting Khandwawala while holding that the prosecution failed to prove the case of custodial torture of the complainant.

"The injuries are not proven as of police custody beating. Even the date of custody is not proved. The complainant had failed to invoke his right to make a complaint of injuries by police as an accused when was arrested and produced before the Magistrate in the case under the Arms Act," Justice Gopi held in the detailed judgement.

In 2003, a fast-track court in Junagadh had convicted him for voluntarily causing grievous hurt to the complainant "to extort confession" at Porbandar police station.

Two other subordinates of Khandwawala who had been convicted were deleted since they passed away during the pendency.

Khandwawala had served as Gujarat DGP between 2009 and 2010. After retirement, he joined a private firm before being appointed as the chief of the Board of Cricket Control of India's anti-corruption unit.

Indian Navy to commission INS Anjadip on Friday

CHENNAI, DHNS

Indian Naval Ship Anjadip, the third vessel of the eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft project, before its commissioning ceremony. PTI

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will commission INS Anjadip, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), on Friday, enhancing the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

INS Anjadip is the third vessel of the eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft project. Its induction highlights the nation's accelerated progress toward achieving self-reliance in defence, as the project exemplifies the success of indigenous warship design and construction.

Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, Anjadip is a state-of-the-art vessel specifically designed to address the challenges of the littoral combat environment, the coastal and shallow waters vital for the nation's security.

The vessel is engineered to act as a 'Dolphin Hunter', focused on the detection, tracking, and neutralisation of enemy submarines in coastal areas, the defence ministry said. It added that the ship is packed with indigenous, cutting-edge anti-submarine warfare weapons and sensor packages, including the Hull-Mounted Sonar Abhay, and is armed with lightweight torpedoes and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) Rockets.

In addition to its primary ASW role, the agile and highly manoeuvrable warship is also equipped to undertake coastal surveillance, low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO) and search & rescue operations. The induction of Anjadip, significantly bolsters the Navy's capacity to safeguard India's vast maritime interests.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal

Tenders are invited through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works and procurement:

(1) KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3968. Material handling works at stores for a period of One year at BTPS. **(2)** KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3969. Providing Hydra Crane and Trailers for plant maintenance works for a period of One year at BTPS. **(3)** KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3971, Date: 18.02.2026, Providing, Erection & Commissioning for 01 no. of Induced Draft, Fanless, Fill less FRP Cooling Tower for U#3 TG Centralized AC System @ BTPS. **(4)** KPCL/2025-26/IND1614/CALL-4, Hydraulic oil filter. **(5)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2301/CALL-3, Valves. **(6)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2344/CALL-2, FRP Fume Absorbers & FRP Liquid Gum for RODM & CPU Plants. **(7)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2240/CALL-2, Industrial Safety Shoes. **(8)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2440, Limit Switch & Zero Speed Switch. **(9)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2441, Flow Meter Sensors. **(10)** KPCL/2025-26/IND1785/CALL-3, Fluidizing Round Pad for ESP hopper. **(11)** KPCL/2025-26/IND1790/CALL-3, Valves for Ash handling. **(12)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2349/CALL-2, Carboxylic Sulphonate Non-Ionic Terpolymer. **(13)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2425, Cartridge Filter Element. Last date for submission of tenders: **06.03.2026 for Sl.No. (1) & (2), 04.03.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs for Sl.No. (3), 03.03.2026 for Sl.No. (4)&(7), 26.02.2026 for Sl.No. (5) & (6), 06.03.2026 for Sl.No. (8) to (11), 04.03.2026 for Sl.No. (12) and 09.03.2026 for Sl.No. (13).** Further details can be had from the office of the: for Sl.No. (1) & (2): **Executive Engineer (Stores) BT, M: 9480830601, e-mail: eestorebtps@gmail.com,** for Sl.No. (3) **Executive Engineer (CAM-1), M: 8277502836** and for Sl.No. (4) to (13) **Executive Engineer (Purchase) BT,** BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini, Bellary District, Karnataka, **Mob. No.: 09480830377, E-mail: eepurchasebtps@gmail.com**

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/E.E.(E)/1186/2025-26 Date: 24.02.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender for electricity related works is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT222 & BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT223). Tender Schedule is as below.
Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **25.02.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **05.03.2026, 17.00 Hrs. (3)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **06.03.2026 at 17.10 Hrs. (4)** Date of opening Financial Bid of Tender: **Refer e-proc.** Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.
Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka
Sri Venugopala Krishna Swamy Temples and Group Temples
Department of Hindu Religious Institutions and Charities
Executive Officers Office, Malleswaram, Bangalore.
Phone No: 080-23313339 Email: samuhadevalya12@gmail.com

NO:E.O.A/CR-31/2025-26 Date: 25.02.2026

Brief Tender Notification (Through e-Procurement)

Bangalore City Malleswaram, Sri Venugopal Krishna Swamy and Group of Temples, the following tenders will be published through e-procurement. Tenderers submitting tenders are requested to contact **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** or Temple Phone No: **080-23313339** for more information.

Name of the Tender	FILE No.	Date of Submission of Tender through Online		Date of Opening of Tender through Online
		Since	Up to	
Bangalore City Malleswaram, Sri.Venugopala Krishna Swamy and Group Temples regarding outsourcing of required posts.	E.O.A/CR-31/2025-26	25.02.2026	13.03.2026	16.03.2026

Sd/- Executive Officer
Sri Venugopala Krishna Swamy & Group of Temples, Malleswaram, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/5824/2025-26

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Ph: 9448994705, Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

No. CESC/GM(P)/TA to MD/2025-26/37966 Date: 24.02.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Materials as mentioned below:

Sl.No	Nomenclature of the work	Enquiry No/ Date
1	Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Compact Fault Passage Indicators (CFPIs) in selected high interrupted 11kV Industrial feeders in Mysuru Industrial area, CESC.	C2-6456/ 23-02-2026

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26-02-2026**. For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000/ 22631200/68948777 or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

DIPR/MYSORE/1734/SSC/2025-26 **Sd/- General Manager (Procurement),CESC, Mysuru.**

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
WEBSITE www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE
No: RWF/PCEE/EL/TD/2025-26/09
Dated: 20/02/2026

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works)
Tender No: RWF/PCEE/EL/TD/2025-26/09 Dtd.:20/02/2026 **Name of the work:** Outsourcing of need based (certain identified) electrical maintenance works in Electrical admin & colony area for a period of 12 months. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 75,83,274.98 **EMD** Rs. ₹1,51,700.00 **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 16/03/2026 at 15.30 hours
This tender notice can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in , Any corrigendum/Extension are available on the website-www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
ATALJI JANASNEHI DIRECTORATE
SSLR BUILDING, K.R.CIRCLE, BENGALURU-560001

No: AJSD/Tender/E-2087305/2025-26 Date: 25/02/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for procurement of **UPS/ INVERTER AND BATTERY UNITS** for Atalji Janasnehi Kendras.
The Tender documents and related information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 25-02-2026 to 04-03-2026.**

Sd/-
Additional Director,
Atalji Janasnehi Directorate, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/SMCL/5840/25-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸುಗ್ರೀವ ವೆಂಕಟರಮಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ,
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬಳೇಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-23313339, Email:samuhadevalya12@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಅ/ಸಿಆರ್-25/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.02.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಬಳೇಪೇಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುಗ್ರೀವ ವೆಂಕಟರಮಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 02 ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಯವರಿಗೆ-01, ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದವರಿಗೆ-01 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲು ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿ 5 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ದರಕ್ಕನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.02.2026** ರಂದು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು **www.eprock.karnataka.gov.in** ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 13.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ**ಯವರೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ **080-23313339** ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಶ್ರೀ ಸುಗ್ರೀವ ವೆಂಕಟರಮಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ,
ಬಳೇಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/5850/ತಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
(ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
TOWN PANCHAYAT CHANNAMMAN KITTUR-591115
Tq:ch,kittur, Dist:Belagavi PH:08288-286344 E-Mail:itstaff_ulb_chkittur@yahoo.in

Sl.No: TP:CNK:PWD/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23/02/2026

Tender Notification (Through E-procurement)

Under Grants for Chief Minister Infrastructure Development Project (CMIDP) grant for the year 2025-26 as per Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Order 1999-2000 Act 2000 as per Standard Bid Document K.W- 2, 3 & 4 rule tenders are invited. Interested PWD contractors can submit tenders only through e-procurement.
Sl.No:1:Details of Works/Indent:DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55152, Amount (In lakhs):114.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.):2,28,000/-, Sl.No:2:Details of Works / Indent: DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55153, Amount (In lakhs):110.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.):2,20,000/-, Sl.No:3: Details of Works/Indent:DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 55154, Amount (In lakhs):76.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,27,660/-, Sl.No:4:Details of Works/Indent: DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT55155, Amount (In lakhs):25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.):50,000/-
Before submitting the tender, the contractor must read and follow the rules and regulations relating to the tenders.
Commencement date of downloading the Tender form from website:23-02-2026.,Last Date for Uploading (Upload) Filled Tenders:13-03-2026 Evening: Upto 4:00 Hrs.,Date of Opening of Tenders: 16-03-2026 will be opened after 4:00 PM.,For more information and conditions, visit the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Chief Officer Town Panchayat Ch.Kittur **Sd/-President Town Panchayat Ch.Kittur**

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1921/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/2025-26/4951 Dated:23.02.2026

TENDER SUBMISSION PERIOD EXTENSION (E-Procurement)

Ref : 1) This offce tender Notification No. EE/PWD/VJP/PB/CMIDP/2025-26/4617 dt: 05-02-2026.
2) This offce tender Notification No. EE/PWD/VJP/PB/4059/5054/2025-26/4622 dt: 05-02-2026.
Tender was invited under Notification Cited at Ref (1). The tender dates are hereby postponed (Sl.No :3 and 4) and at Ref (2) The tender dates are hereby postponed (Sl.No :14 and 15) due to unavoidable reasons details are as below .
The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division,Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) 4 works, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with 4059 CMIDP head of account costing of maximum and minimum amount for Rs500.00 Lakhs and RS.170.00 lakhş the EMD amount of maximum and minimum Rs.7,50,000/-and RS.2,55,000/- for the works for the work. Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 27.02.2026 at 4:30 PM 2) Opening of Technical Bid Date-02.03.2026 at 04:31 PM 3) Opening of Financial Bid Date- 03.03.2026 at 11.00 AM onwards. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 919240214000 & 919240214001) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur

DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/745/KSMCA/2025-26

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ- 561203

ಸಂ.: DPA/TP/CLU/91/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (RTC ರನ್ವಯ)	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ.ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ-ಗು)	ಬಿಐಎಎಪಿಎ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1.	ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ರಾಮರಾಜು ಬಿನ್ ನರಸರಾಜು	ಯಲಹಂಕ	ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ-1	ಮತ್ತಕೂರು	40/3	1-28.50+ 00-05 ಗು 'ಎ' ಖರಾಬ್	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಷರಾ: ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾ ಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ
ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

Encroachers on rly land have no vested right: SC

Urges compassion in Haldwani evictions; families to be assessed for PMAY housing

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

UNAUTHORISED STAY

- Over 5,000 families in Uttarakhand face eviction for railway expansion
- Petitioners say they have lived near Haldwani station for 4-5 decades
- Court says they lived on concession, not entitlement

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that encroachers on railway land in Uttarakhand's Haldwani do not have any vested legal right to reside there, indicating that over 5,000 families will have to vacate for the proposed expansion project.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi noted that the dispute over the land has traversed multiple courts and observed that the stalemate over encroached railway property cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely.

The court directed the Centre and state authorities to verify the eligibility of families living in the area for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) after Ramzan, between March 15 and March 31.

The SC also directed the Nainital collector, the Haldwani sub-divisional officer, and other officials — including members of the district-level legal services authority — to visit the area and set up a camp to assist families occupying the land in completing forms and formalities to avail benefits under the scheme.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that residents have been living in the area around Haldwani railway station for over four to five decades.

He added that the state government had earlier promised to regularise the settlement but no action was taken.

The bench, however, said, "It is public land — railway land — a fact not in dispute. You are actually getting a concession for being there. You cannot claim it as a right. The concession exists only because the authorities overlooked the illegalities for years."

Bhushan argued that not all of the land was required for the expansion project and that the railways could either acquire what was necessary or shift the project elsewhere.

The SC said it cannot ask the railways to shift the project, noting that such decisions rest with experts. The bench added that occupants cannot dictate how railway land is used and stressed it is unsafe to live so close to the tracks, urging relocation to safer places.

The SC urged compassion, noting residents live in unhygienic conditions without drinking water, electricity or sewage. It said families should be allowed to opt for housing under the PMAY scheme, assuring that any impediments would be addressed by the court.

L&T gets contract for gravitational wave observatory

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's most prestigious mega-science project, a Rs 2,600 crore astrophysical observatory to capture the elusive gravitational waves, has reached yet another milestone with L&T announcing on Tuesday that it has won the contract to complete the project in the next 48 months.

The LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) will come up at Aundha in Maharashtra's Hingoli district. "Two business verticals of L&T – the Heavy Civil Infrastructure and Heavy Engineering – have jointly won a significant order from the Department of Atomic Energy for establishing the LIGO India Observatory," the company said in a statement.

The L-shaped observatory will have two 4-km-long vacuum tunnels to house highly sensitive sensors to pick up ultra-feeble signals emanating from violent cosmic events like the merger of black holes and neutron stars taking place in the distant universe.

Indian scientists have been waiting for the experimental facility for a long time after it was approved "in-principle" by the Union government in 2016 but the cabinet nod for the Rs 2,600 crore project came only in April 2023, and a month later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone.

India, Israel reaffirm 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism

NEW DELHI, PTI

India and Israel on Tuesday reaffirmed their policy of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism as they vowed to strengthen bilateral cooperation to combat the menace, including through information sharing.

The two sides deliberated extensively on effectively combating the challenge of terrorism at a meeting of their joint working group on counter-terrorism held in New Delhi.

The fresh resolve to expand cooperation to deal with terrorism came a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to Israel on a two-day visit.

In the meeting, India and Israel emphasised that confronting terrorism requires concerted action in a "sustained and comprehensive manner".

"Against this backdrop, the two sides renewed their commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation in the field of countering terrorism, including in the UN, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other multilateral platforms," an India-Israel joint statement said.

It said the two sides reiterated their commitment to cooperate in combating terrorism and terrorist organisations, as well as their proxies, supporters, sponsors, financiers and backers.

India and Israel also discussed further strengthening law enforcement and judicial cooperation, including through information sharing and cooperation on mutual legal assistance requests.

The meeting underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation in countering terrorism, reflecting the "spirit and breadth" of the India-Israel strategic partnership, the statement noted.

"Both sides unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," it said.

'Under pressure' to clear NEET, Lucknow teen kills father, dismembers body

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In a shocking incident, a 21-year-old man allegedly shot dead his father, dismembered the body and dumped the parts at different locations in the Ashiana locality of Lucknow.

According to police, the accused, Akshay Pratap Singh, an undergraduate student, had appeared for the NEET examination twice but failed to clear it. His father, Manvendra Singh (50), who owned several liquor shops and a pathology centre, had allegedly been pressuring him to clear the exam as he wanted him to become a doctor.

Police sources said the two had a heated argument on Friday, during which Manvendra reportedly scolded his son for not clearing NEET. During the altercation, the father allegedly pointed his rifle at Akshay.

Sources said Akshay snatched the rifle and fired at his father, killing him on the spot. Akshay's younger sister, who was in another room, rushed in after hearing the gunshot and found her father lying in a pool of blood.

Akshay threatened his sister that he would kill her also if she raised an alarm and locked her in a room. She remained locked in for four days, during which Akshay dismembered the body and disposed of the parts across the city.

He also bought a drum to put the torso and fill it with acid or cement. Meanwhile, Akshay told neighbours that his father was missing and that a complaint had been lodged with the police.

Police said that Akshay, apparently fearing the police attention and quizzing by the neighbours, called one of his father's friends and confessed to the crime.

A senior police official said the rifle and the saw used in the crime have been recovered, along with some body parts.

Meanwhile, the accused has been sent to police remand and is being further questioned to ascertain other aspects of case.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

I SURE HOPE THE SUSHI HERE IS AS GOOD AS I'VE HEARD IT IS
SUSHI? THEY DON'T SERVE SUSHI HERE
THEY DON'T?
WELL, THEN, I'LL JUST ORDER THE PRIME RIB
BOY, THIS GUY IS IN FOR A SIDE DISH OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

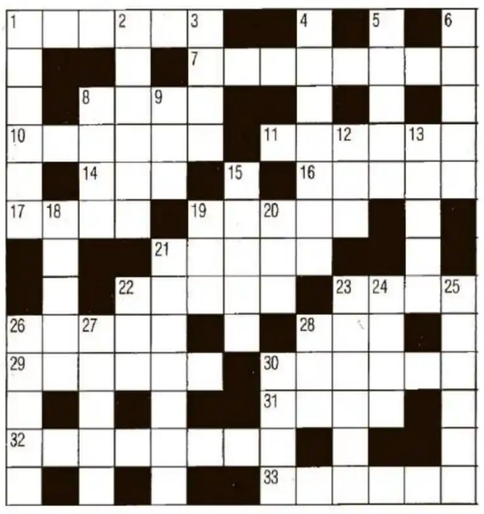
WHAT'S THAT BIG BLACK BOOK?
IT'S GOT THE NUMBERS OF ALL THE WOMEN I'VE DATED
SO, WHAT'S THE LITTLE WHITE BOOK FOR?
IT'S FOR ALL THE NUMBERS OF THE WOMEN WHO WILL STILL SPEAK TO ME

Peanuts

Marvin

Fire hydrants
where dogs gather to gripe and gossip.
IF MY HUMAN DIDN'T SPEND ALL HIS MONEY ON NEW GOLF CLUBS HE COULD AFFORD TO GET MY TEETH FIXED!!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12361



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 A tyrant is the chap to shoot (6)
7 Nowadays, a choice in family planning (8)
8 To appear semi-nude for fifty quid is useless (4)
10 Acid complaint by the winner (6)
11 Going well, you can tell (2,4)
14 Looking ruddy angry! (3)
16 Her yacht needs a refit (5)
17 God of youth, originally? (4)
19 Being old-fashioned gets a troop leader in dead trouble! (5)
21 More than one clanger? (5)
22 One of the elements taking Jason's ship north (5)
23 Something to do with saintliness (4)
26 She gets playback from cassettes (5)
28 Turn up at long last with a dog (3)
29 In name, a link (6)
30 Maybe sails out East finding passages (6)
31 He's more than a darling (4)
32 Make me a blend that could be made better (8)
33 Remove a dunderhead unexpectedly due at court (6)

DOWN
1 Go like an exploding petard (6)
2 Sulky looking bird? (6)
3 Powder used in dental clinics (4)
4 Can you hear him in the dispensary? (7)
5 Something turned on (5)
6 The other side (5)
8 Alleged fiddler in a finer orchestra (4)
9 Cover with figures (3)
12 Noisy publicity in vogue (3)
13 One with a broken horn? (5)
15 Police district or man maybe (5)
18 It may go to pot, pet (5)
19 Fellow apt to cheat at golf? (3)
20 Time to raise the net (3)
21 Where many a caber has been tossed (7)
22 A burning issue? (3)
23 Suddenly, the boys blew hard (6)
24 Look round at a shapely leg? (4)
25 You can find trees at Land's End rather than here (6)
26 A remarkable time in the garden? (5)
27 Pass as money (5)
28 What the recipient has to eat (3)
30 Copied a letter to the Editor (4)

ACROSS
1 Bob Marley's music (6)
7 Stretch (8)
8 Drop (4)
10 Wind instruments (6)
11 Younger in years (6)
14 Observe (3)
16 Restrict (5)
17 Otherwise (4)
19 Yellowish-pink colour (5)
21 As yet (2,3)
22 Note value (5)
23 Covers (4)
26 Unit of purity of gold (5)
28 Pitch (3)
29 He flew too near the sun (6)
30 Fixed allowance (6)
31 Hand tools (4)
32 Drive (8)
33 Teachers (6)

DOWN
1 Type of lottery (6)
2 Pointed beard (6)
3 Slippery fishes (4)
4 Thin and bony (7)
5 Axiom (5)
6 Vital organ (5)
8 Ado (4)
9 Boy's name (3)
12 Nothing (3)
13 Lubricated (5)
15 Bulgarian capital (5)
18 Shrub or small tree (5)
19 Swindle (3)
20 Male sheep (3)
21 Place, locate (7)
22 Spoil (3)
23 Most recent (6)
24 Plant (4)
25 Scorches (6)
26 Cheroot, for example (5)
27 Synagogue minister (5)
28 Levy (3)
30 Bombast (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12360

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Is-sue 6, A-do-pt. 9, Tax-able 10, Snoot 11, Tapir 12, Biker 13, Staines 15, Des 17, Ta-ta 18, Res-is-t 19, Mowed 20, Mellow 22, D-ill 24, Pa-L 25, Capital 26, Devil 27, An-no-y 28, Major 29, Wel-l out 30, Grand 31, M-err-y.
DOWN: 2, Sonata 3, Utopia 4, Eat 5, Par-is 6, Altered 7, Dear 8, Primes 12, Below 13, Stump 14, A-t all 15, Dig-it 16, St-all 18, Regal 19, Mon.-eyed 21, Earner 22, Di-late 23, Labour 25, Cilla 26, Down 28, Mum.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Scoff 6, False 9, Library 10, Egg on 11, Eerie 12, Dupes 13, Fatigue 15, Fly 17, Acid 18, Soiree 19, Denim 20, Lashes 22, Digs 24, Try 25, Quartet 26, Lotus 27, Pivot 28, Salty 29, Regular 30, Feeds 31, Types.
DOWN: 2, Cognac 3, Florid 4, Fin 5, Argue 6, Freedom 7, Ayes 8, Stifle 12, Dukes 13, Fault 14, Tipsy 15, Fruit 16, Yeast 18, Sinus 19, Demotes 21, Arrive 22, Dreary 23, Gentle 25, Queue 26, Lord 28, Sat.

◆SU-DO-KU-6839◆

6		3		2				
				8	9	6	3	7
							1	
8		9	1		4			2
1		6	3		8	7		5
3			2		7	9		1
	8							
9	3	2	8	4				
				1		8		3

easy

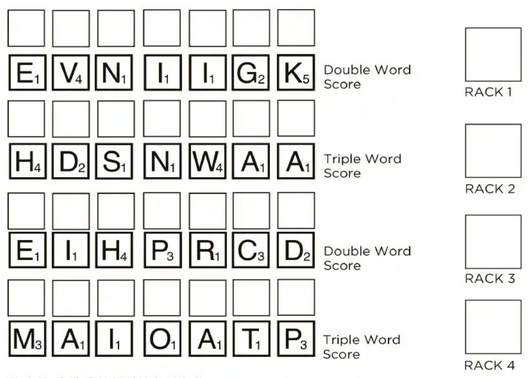
SOLUTION TO 6838

6	8	7	5	2	9	4	3	1
1	9	3	4	8	7	2	6	5
4	5	2	6	1	3	7	8	9
5	1	9	2	7	8	3	4	6
7	6	8	3	4	1	9	5	2
3	2	4	9	5	6	1	7	8
2	7	5	1	6	4	8	9	3
8	3	6	7	9	2	5	1	4
9	4	1	8	3	5	6	2	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

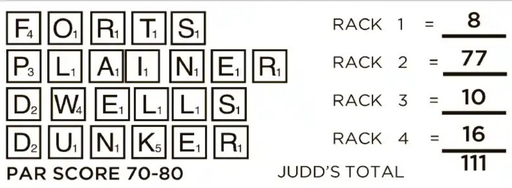

E1 V4 N1 I1 I1 G2 K5 Double Word Score
H4 D2 S1 N1 W4 A1 A1 Triple Word Score
E1 I1 H4 P3 R1 C3 D2 Double Word Score
M3 A1 I1 O1 A1 T1 P3 Triple Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION


F4 O1 R1 T1 S1
P3 L1 A1 I1 N1 E1 R1
D2 W4 E1 L1 L1 S1
D2 U1 N1 K5 E1 R1
RACK 1 = 8
RACK 2 = 77
RACK 3 = 10
RACK 4 = 16
JUDD'S TOTAL 111
PAR SCORE 70-80

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

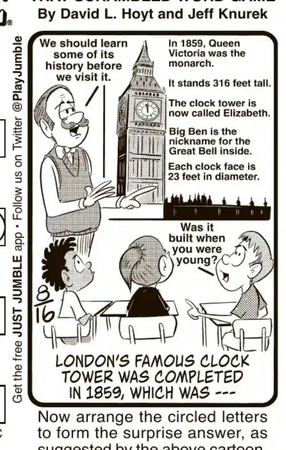
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TIGZL

XTNIO

FAOLAT

GRRMEE


We should learn some of its history before we visit it.
In 1859, Queen Victoria was the monarch.
It stands 316 feet tall.
The clock tower is now called Elizabeth.
Big Ben is the nickname for the Great Bell inside.
Each clock face is 23 feet in diameter.
Was it built when you were young?
LONDON'S FAMOUS CLOCK TOWER WAS COMPLETED IN 1859, WHICH WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ENACT SHAME COHORT REVERT
Answer: When the hiker suggested a shortcut through the poison ivy, the others said — SCRATCH THAT!

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

HITORI-3293

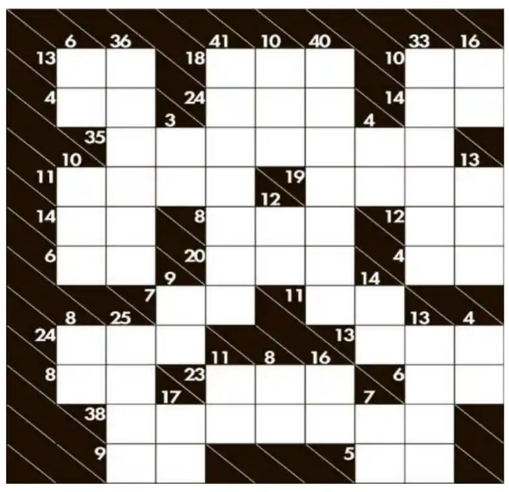
6	6	2	7	4	5	4	1
5	2	3	1	6	3	3	4
6	7	3	4	3	2	6	3
6	3	8	3	2	3	1	3
7	3	5	2	4	1	6	6
3	5	3	8	1	4	7	7
6	1	4	3	5	7	5	8
2	8	1	3	3	6	6	7

SOLUTION TO 3292

4	8	5	■	3	6	2	■
8	■	2	4	■	7	3	1
■	2	3	■	4	1	7	6
5	■	1	8	2	■	4	■
3	1	7	■	8	4	■	2
6	4	■	2	■	3	1	7
■	3	6	1	7	2	5	8
7	5	■	3	1	■	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3293



SOLUTION TO 3292

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3838

■		1	3		4			2
	■						6	
		2				7		
	6		■		5			
1		8		■				7
			■		6	3	5	
		3		1		9		
7	■	6					■	
■						8		■

SOLUTION TO 3837

5	6	7	3	4	1	9	2	8
8	9	3	2	5	6	7	4	1
1	2	4	8	7	9	6	5	3
9	5	8	6	3	2	1	7	4
3	7	2	5	1	4	8	6	9
4	1	6	9	8	7	2	3	5
6	4	5	1	2	8	3	9	7
2	3	1	7	9	5	4	8	6
7	8	9	4	6	3	5	1	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

China military purge taking toll on command and readiness

IISS says corruption crackdown may dent PLA readiness despite ongoing modernisation

HONG KONG, REUTERS

China's ongoing military corruption purges are leaving significant deficiencies in its command structure and are likely to have hampered the readiness of its rapidly modernising armed forces, a leading defence research centre said on Tuesday.

The purges are likely to be incomplete, even though they have so far ranged across the supreme Central Military Commission (CMC), theatre commands, weapons procurement and development, as well as defence academia, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said.

"From an organisational perspective, until the vacancies are filled, the PLA is operating with serious deficiencies in its command structure," the London-based IISS said in its annual Military Balance, a survey of global military forces that is a key research tool for analysts.

The report comes after two of China's highest-ranking generals became ensnared in disciplinary investigations in the highest-profile military purges in decades. Zhang Youxia, a veteran military ally of President Xi Jinping, was placed under investigation in January, while He Weidong was expelled in October last year.

STRUCTURAL GAPS

- Military purges have reduced China's top command body and created structural gaps.
- IISS warns of short-term readiness impacts but says modernisation will continue.
- China's defence spending and Indo-Pacific deployments continue to expand.

The crackdown has reduced China's seven-member supreme military command body to a committee of just two people — CMC chair Xi himself and newly promoted vice chairman Zhang Shengmin.

If personnel had been promoted due to connections, faulty weapons introduced through contract problems, and wider morale hampered, "the purge is almost certain to have a near-term impact", the report said.

However, it described the effects as "temporary", adding that modernisation is likely to continue apace.

To that end, the report outlined China's extensive and assertive projection of military power in the Indo-Pacific in support of territorial claims and statecraft, noting increased deployments around Taiwan in 2025.

Xi made a rare public reference to the crackdown in a virtual address to China's armed forces earlier this month.

"The past year has been unusual and extraordinary," Xi said. "The People's Army has deepened its political education, effectively addressed various risks and challenges, and undergone revolutionary forging in the fight against corruption."

The IISS report noted that rises in Chinese military spending were consistently outpacing the rest of Asia amid a global surge in defence budgets.

China's share of the regional total grew to almost 44% in 2025, up from an average of 37% between 2010 and 2020.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals activists dressed as "Cavemen" hold a flashmob protest during the opening of Milan Fashion Week in central Milan on Tuesday. AFP

US military strikes alleged drug boat in Caribbean Sea, killing 3

▸ The US military said it killed three people Monday in a strike on an alleged drug-smuggling vessel in the Caribbean Sea as part of the Trump administration's months-long campaign against alleged traffickers, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Monday's attack brought the death toll to at least 151 people since the Trump administration began targeting those it calls "narco-terrorists" in small vessels in early September. As with most of the military's statements on the more than 40 known strikes, US Southern Command said it targeted alleged drug traffickers along known smuggling routes. The military did not provide evidence that the vessel was ferrying drugs but posted a video on X that showed a small boat with outboard engines being destroyed. "Intelligence confirmed the vessel was transiting along known narco-trafficking routes in the Caribbean and was engaged in narco-trafficking operations," Southern Command stated in a post on X. "Three male narco-terrorists were killed during this action."

Viswanathan on Booker Prize list

▸ Padma Viswanathan, a Canadian writer of Indian heritage, was on Tuesday named on the 2026 International Booker Prize longlist as the English translator of a "haunting" Portuguese language novel by Brazilian author Ana Paula Maia, PTI reports from London.

'On Earth As It Is Beneath', described by judges as a stark exploration of power and corruption, is among 13 worldwide contenders for the coveted literary honour.

The annual prize worth 50,000 pounds, divided equally between the author and translator, was last year won by Kannada writer-activist Banu Mushtaq and translator Deepa Bhasthi for the short story collection 'Heart Lamp'.

US aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford docks at Souda Bay in the Greek island of Crete on Tuesday. The world's largest vessel is on its way to the Middle East to join 13 more warships stationed in the region. AFP

12 Indian fishermen arrested

▸ Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 12 Indian fishermen and seized their boat for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters, PTI reports from Colombo.

Sri Lanka's North Central Naval Command on Sunday spotted a group of Indian fishing boats engaged in illegal fishing and trespassing into Sri Lankan waters, a statement issued by the Sri Lankan Navy said. "During an operation conducted in the dark hours of 22 February 26, the Sri Lanka Navy seized 1 Indian fishing boat and apprehended 12 fishermen while they were poaching in Sri Lankan waters", it added.

UK, France planning nuclear transfer to Ukraine: Russia

Kyiv dismisses allegation as 'absurd' ahead of Geneva peace talks

MOSCOW, PTI/REUTERS

A Russian intelligence agency on Tuesday claimed that the UK and France are covertly planning to transfer nuclear weapons to Ukraine, an allegation Kyiv dismissed as "absurd".

The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) made the claim in a report issued on Tuesday, as Moscow's military operation in former Soviet republic Ukraine entered its fifth year.

Without providing any evidence, the agency said: "The British and French realise that their designs imply a gross violation of international law, first of all the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and carry the risk of destroying the global non-proliferation system." "The Westerners' main efforts are focused on making Kyiv's possession of nuclear weapons look like it was developed by Ukrainians themselves," the report added.

Reacting to the report, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov underlined that non-nuclear Ukraine is one of the conditions for a settlement of the crisis, as Moscow seeks a negotiated end to the fighting.

"Undoubtedly, this information about Paris and London's intention to arm Kyiv with a nuclear bomb is extremely important. It is important from the point of view of the threat it poses to the entire non-proliferation regime, especially in the context of active hostilities unfolding in Europe," he said while briefing the press.

Peskov said Russian President Vladimir Putin had outlined the conditions for a Ukrainian settlement in June 2024 at a meeting with Foreign Ministry officials. "We will certainly take this information into account during the ongoing negotiations, because this is potentially extremely dangerous information," he said.

Ukraine rejected the allegation, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Heorhii Tykhyi telling Reuters that Russian officials were fabricating claims.

"Russian officials, known for their impressive record of lies, are once again trying to fabricate the old 'dirty bomb' nonsense," he said. "For the record: Ukraine has already denied such absurd Russian claims many times before."

European Council President Antonio Costa, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attend the fourth anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Kyiv on Tuesday. REUTERS

Blast in Moscow

An unidentified assailant detonated an explosive device next to a patrol vehicle in Moscow on Tuesday, killing himself and a police officer, AP/PTI reports from Moscow. Russia's top investigative agency later said the assailant was a 22-year-old man from Russia's Udmurt Republic.

Putin has not broken us, says Zelenskyy

KYIV, AP/PTI: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared on Tuesday that Russia has not "broken Ukrainians" nor triumphed in its war, four years after an invasion that has severely tested the resolve of Kyiv and its allies and fuelled European fears about the scale of Moscow's ambitions.

In a show of support, more than a dozen senior European officials headed to the Ukrainian capital to mark the grim anniversary of the conflict.

India abstains from UN truce resolution

UNITED NATIONS, PTI: India on Tuesday abstained in the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution that called for an immediate, full and unconditional ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

The resolution, 'Support for lasting peace in Ukraine' was adopted by the 193-member UN Assembly, with 107 voting in favour, 12 against and 51 abstentions.

Landmark study helps AI better understand accents, dialects

LONDON, PTI: AI could soon better understand people's accents and dialects, thanks to a landmark study being led by the University of Sheffield.

The study, led by Dr Chris Montgomery from the University's School of English in collaboration with ICS. AI, the UK's fastest-growing, profitable AI business, is set to tackle one of the biggest challenges in public sector AI – how well digital services understand people who speak with different regional accents and dialects.

The collaboration is the first UK academic-industry partnership to apply sociolinguistic research to the evaluation of public sector conversational AI, focusing on how systems perform in real service interactions between citizens and public bodies - for example, when people contact their local council and conversational AI is used to answer questions and help them access the right information or services.

The study is based on Dr Montgomery's systematic review of more than five decades of peer-reviewed research on accent and dialect variation across Great Britain. This follows a recent survey, which revealed that over half (52%) of UK residents are concerned that AI may struggle to understand accents or dialects.

72 tigers at Thai tourist parks died of canine distemper

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: The deaths of 72 tigers in two animal parks for tourists in northern Thailand shouldn't be a major concern for the public, officials said Tuesday, because they were caused by a virus not known to affect humans, rather than bird flu.

No one has shown any symptoms so far, but authorities were nonetheless monitoring the health of people who had recently come into contact with the animals.

"There has not been an animal-to-human infection case due to canine distemper," Public Health Minister Pattana Promphat said.

The tigers in the parks in Mae Taeng and Mae Rim districts in Chiang Mai province became sick and died during a roughly 10-day period between February 8 and 18.

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of 'unprovoked firing'

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan on Tuesday accused the Afghan Taliban of "unprovoked firing" along the border, while warning of a severe response to any further such attacks.

The firing came just days after Pakistan launched airstrikes against the alleged hideouts of the terrorists inside Afghanistan after recent terrorist attacks within the country.

No-shows by Trump's envoy to France increase friction

Charles Kushner has been summoned twice by the French foreign ministry

PARIS, AP/PTI

France's spat with the US ambassador to Paris took another turn Tuesday with the French foreign minister saying the top US diplomat in France must respond to a summons and won't have access to French government officials until he complies.

French authorities had summoned Ambassador Charles Kushner - the father of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner - for a meeting on Monday over comments from the Trump administration that France objected to. But Kushner did not show up, the foreign ministry said. The US Embassy did not immediately respond to repeated requests for comment.

Speaking Tuesday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot described the failure to attend the meeting as "a surprise" that flew in the face of diplomatic protocol and will dent Charles Kushner's ability to serve as an ambassador.

"It will, naturally, affect his capacity to exercise his mission in our country," Barrot said. He said that Kushner "is bringing difficulties on himself. Because for an ambassador to be able to do his job, he needs access to members of the government. That's the basics."

"There is nothing more usual than summoning an ambassador when explanations need to be made," he said. "When these explanations have taken place, then the US ambassador in France will, naturally, regain access to members of the French government."

US Ambassador to France Charles Kushner delivers a speech to celebrate the 250th birthday of the US in Paris. AFP FILE

Louvre Museum's director resigns

PARIS, AP/PTI: French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday accepted the resignation of the Louvre Museum's director. She had been under fire in the wake of a stunning and embarrassing heist of the French Crown jewels.

The resignation of Laurence des Cars was announced by the presidential office.

It said Macron praised des Cars' resignation decision as "an act of responsibility at a time when the world's largest museum needs calm and a strong new impetus to carry out major projects involving security upgrades, modernisation" and other initiatives.

Imran taken to hospital for eye treatment

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan's incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan was on Tuesday taken to a hospital at Islamabad for treating an eye ailment, officials said even as his party demanded "transparency".

The 73-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, who has been at the Adiala Jail since 2023, was diagnosed with right central retinal vein occlusion.

Canada moves to revoke Tahawwur Rana's citizenship

TORONTO, PTI: Ahead of Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to India, the Canadian government is moving to revoke the citizenship of Pakistan-born Tahawwur Rana Hussain, who is accused of playing a key role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Rana, 64, is a Pakistan-born Canadian national and a close associate of one of the main conspirators in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, David Coleman Headley, alias Daood Gilani, a US citizen.

Documents obtained by Global News show that immigration officials have notified Rana of their intention to strip him of Canadian citizenship, which he acquired in 2001.

He immigrated to Canada in 1997 and was later convicted in the US of plotting to attack staff at a Danish newspaper. Rana, accused of involvement in the 26/11 attacks that killed 166 people, was extradited from the United States to India in April 2025. He was arrested by the National Investigation Agency upon his arrival in New Delhi.

In its decision, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) stated that Rana's citizenship was being revoked not on terrorism grounds, but because he allegedly provided false information in his application. When Rana applied for citizenship in 2000, he claimed to have lived in Ottawa and Toronto for the previous four years, with only a six-day absence from the country.

However, an RCMP probe found that he had spent almost that entire period in Chicago, where he owned several properties and businesses.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC), Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase,
Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Fax:080-28094180 Ph:080-28094196, 4184, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works

Sl. No.	NIT No.	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-103/ 2025-26 Dated: 23.02.2026	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-115/ 2025-26 Dated:23.02.2026
1	Name of Work	Refurbishment of various conference halls, Remote INC lab and Remote ISSDC lab at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil Interior Works)	Annual Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Civil & PH Systems for DOS Housing Colony at RPC Layout, DOS Housing Colony at Jalahalli, CISF Quarters and barracks at Jalahalli, Bengaluru.
2	Estimated cost put to tender	Rs. 24.98 Lakhs	Rs. 157.73 Lakhs
3	Tender Document details	E-Tender	E-Tender
4	Period of completion	06 (Six) Months	12 (Twelve) Months (Department reserves the right to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)
5	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 14.30 hrs on 25.02.2026 to 16.30 hrs. on 10.03.2026	From 14.30 hrs on 25.02.2026 to 16.30 hrs. on 17.03.2026
6	Bid clarification	From 15.30 hrs on 25.02.2026 to 16.30 hrs. on 11.03.2026	From 15.30 hrs on 25.02.2026 to 16.30 hrs. on 18.03.2026
7	Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	Up to 16.30 hrs on 12.03.2026	Up to 16.30 hrs on 20.03.2026
8	Last date & time of receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs on 13.03.2026	Up to 14.30 hrs on 23.03.2026
9	Due date and time of opening of tenders	11.30 hrs onwards 16.03.2026	11.30 hrs onwards 24.03.2026
10	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 49,960/-	Rs. 3,15,460/-

2. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detaild bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website:**www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

AI revenue estimated to touch $10-12 bn in FY26: Nasscom

Cites broad-based expansion across key segments

BENGALURU, DHNS

With clients now preferring scaled deployments of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the IT industry has been focusing on AI-driven projects. It is now estimated that AI revenue will be upwards of $10-12 billion in FY26.

Nasscom on Tuesday released the findings of its Annual Strategic Review 2026, which said that technology demand remained resilient, but shifted decisively towards measurable return on investment (ROI), efficiency and outcome-led transformation. It is estimated that 5-6% of average company revenues are now AI-led. The report stated that the IT sector is expected to hit $315 billion in revenue in FY26, growing 6.1% YoY from $297 billion in FY25.

Nasscom, which represents the country's $300 billion technology industry, said the estimated revenue will be led by broad-based expansion across key segments. "While AI-led transformation accelerated, the industry continued to be a net hirer, with headcount increasing by 2.3%, supported by large-scale skilling efforts: over 2 million professionals were upskilled in AI, including 200,000 to 300,000 in advanced AI skills," Nasscom said.

It also pointed out that 'Human + AI' has become the operating model. Nasscom Chairperson Sindhu Gangadharan said AI is accelerating productivity and changing the nature of work, but it is also expanding the opportunity frontier. As AI gets embedded across functions, we will see roles redesigned around outcomes, deeper specialisation, and significantly higher AI fluency. The industry's focus is on building 'Human + AI' teams, investing in continuous skilling, and converting efficiency gains into growth, creating new jobs and new career pathways, even as delivery becomes more agile and more resilient.

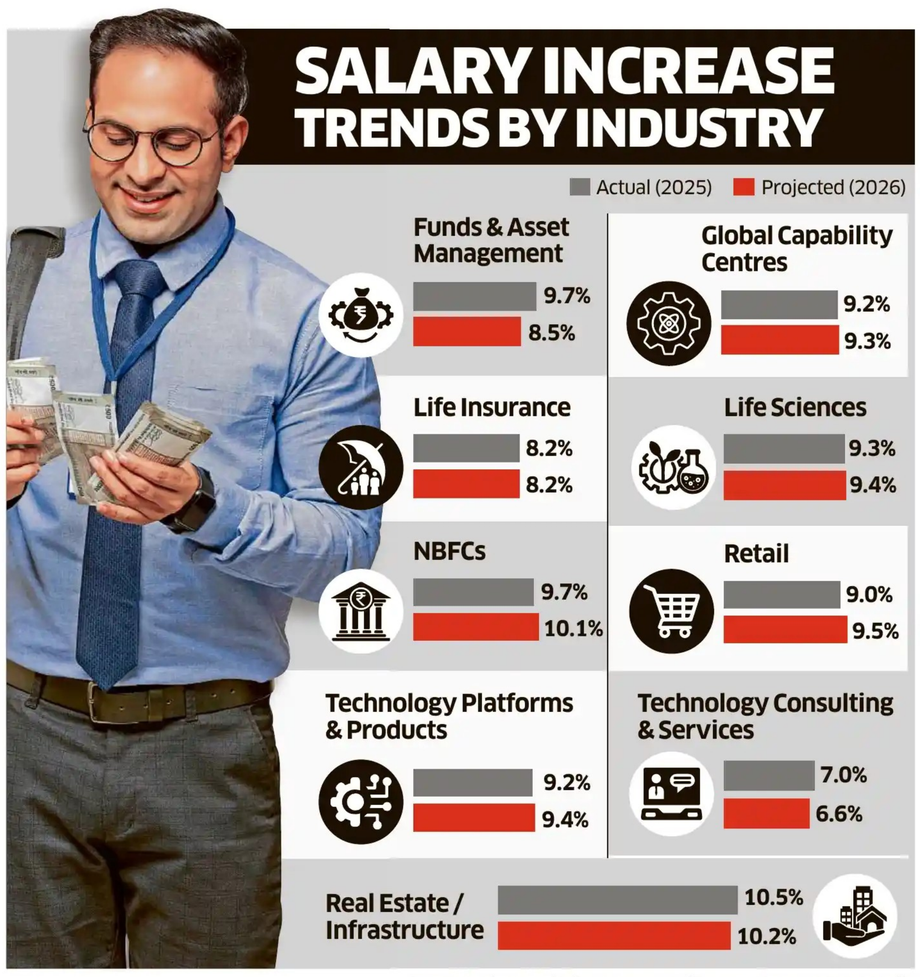
> "While AI-led transformation accelerated, the industry continued to be a net hirer, with headcount increasing by 2.3%, supported by large-scale skilling efforts: over 2 million professionals were upskilled in AI, including 200,000 to 300,000 in advanced AI skills
> **NASSCOM**

Nasscom President Rajesh Nambiar said the past year has been a reset for the global environment, but technology demand has remained resilient, shifting decisively toward productivity, measurable ROI and scaled AI deployments. "India's AI advantage is widening, making organisations more agile and outcome-led. At the same time, growth engines like GCCs and ER&D are moving up the value chain, from scale to strategic ownership, reinforcing India's role as a trusted partner built on cyber resilience and responsible AI," he added.

The report added that the industry is expected to add 1.35 lakh in FY26.

Commenting on specialised tech roles, Nipun Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship told *DH* that the country has the scale, producing nearly 1.5 million engineering graduates annually, but readiness for specialised roles remains uneven. Positions in areas such as AI operations, cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity, and data engineering require applied exposure that many graduates do not receive through traditional coursework.

"The opportunity to fill 1 lakh specialised tech roles exists, but it depends on strengthening capability pipelines that emphasise hands-on learning, industry exposure, and faster skill alignment with emerging technologies. At the same time, continuous reskilling and upskilling of experienced engineers is equally critical, as technology cycles are shortening and existing talent must evolve alongside new roles," Sharma added.



Source: Aon's Annual Salary Increase and Turnover Survey 2025-26 India

Economic growth likely above 8% in Q3: SBI Research

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's GDP is estimated to grow at 8.1% in the October-December 2025 quarter, maintaining above 8% expansion for the two consecutive quarters, on the back of strong consumption, SBI Research said on Tuesday.

High-frequency activity data indicates resilient economic activity in Q3 of FY26. Rural consumption remains strong, driven by positive signals from farm and non-farm activity. Supported by fiscal stimulus, urban consumption shows a consistent uptick since the last festive season, SBI Research said in a note.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is scheduled to release Q3 data on February 27. This will be the first GDP data release based on new series. The new series will have 2022-23 as the base year, as against 2011-12.

Along with the quarterly data, the ministry is also scheduled to release the Second Advance Estimates of GDP for 2025-26, along with past three financial years' GDP estimates as per the new base 2022-23.

"Overall, we expect Q3FY26 real GDP growth of closer to 8.1%. Given significant methodological changes, it is difficult to predict the direction of revision," SBI Research said.

Sensex plunges 1,069 points on IT stocks selloff, global trade worries

Rising crude prices amid US-Iran tensions affect investor sentiment

MUMBAI, PTI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1% on Tuesday, dragged down by heavy losses in IT stocks amid concerns over artificial intelligence-led disruption and renewed trade-related uncertainties.

Rising global crude prices amid escalating US-Iran tensions and sluggish global cues also hit investor sentiment, traders said.

Snapping its two-session rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,068.74 points, or 1.28%, to settle at 82,225.92. During the day, the benchmark plunged 1,359.93 points, or 1.63%, to hit an intraday low of 81,934.73.

A total of 2,802 stocks declined, while 1,422 advanced and 143 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Nifty tanks 288 points

The 50-share NSE Nifty fell 288.35 points, or 1.12%, to close at 25,424.65. In the intraday session, it depreciated by 385.4 points, or 1.49%, to hit a low of 25,327.60.

As many as 32 of its components ended in the red, while 18 settled in the green territory.

"Investor sentiment weakened amid renewed concerns over global trade developments and rising geopolitical tensions, which kept crude oil prices elevated. Moreover, continued pressure on global technology stocks and fears of AI-led disruption further dragged domestic IT shares, amplifying the decline in the benchmark indices," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Tech Mahindra emerged as the biggest laggard, declining by 6.6%, followed by HCLTech, Eternal, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Trent, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Bharat Electronics Ltd and ICICI Bank. On the other hand, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Steel, PowerGrid, Titan, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, and Sun Pharmaceuticals were among the gainers.

"Escalating US-Iran tensions, marked by embassy staff evacuations and Iran's warnings of wider regional escalation, intensified risk aversion. Overall, markets remain highly-sensitive to geopolitical risks and sector-specific pressures, driving investors toward defensive, domestically focused segments," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

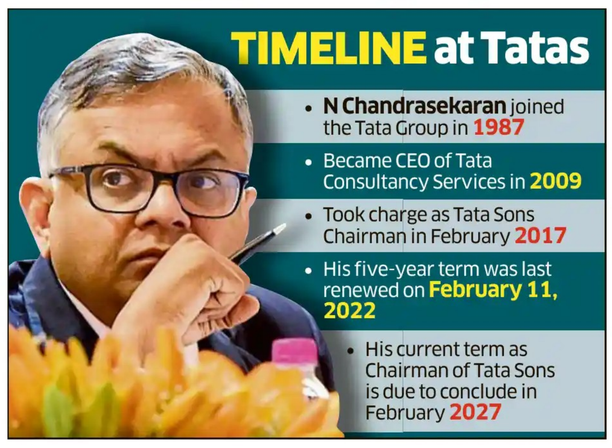
Broader indices also ended in the negative territory, with the BSE Smallcap Select Index falling 0.68%, while the Midcap Select Index slipped 0.54%.

Among the sectoral indices, Focused IT dropped the most by 4.80%, followed by Information Technology by 4.53%, Realty by 2.61%, Telecommunication by 1.79%, Consumer Discretionary by 1.12%, and Industrials by 0.91%.

On the other hand, Metal, Oil & Gas Power, Energy, Utilities, Commodities, FMCG, Healthcare, PSU Bank, and Capital Goods, among others, were finished in the green territory.

Tata Group defers decision on Chandra's reappointment

REUTERS


TIMELINE at Tatas
• N Chandrasekaran joined the Tata Group in 1987
• Became CEO of Tata Consultancy Services in 2009
• Took charge as Tata Sons Chairman in February 2017
• His five-year term was last renewed on February 11, 2022
• His current term as Chairman of Tata Sons is due to conclude in February 2027

India's salt-to-software Tata Group has deferred a decision on reappointing N Chandrasekaran as chairman for another five years.

Chandrasekaran, 62, joined the Tata Group in 1987 and rose through the ranks to become the CEO of Tata Consultancy Services in 2009, before taking charge as Tata Sons' chair in February 2017.

During the board meeting, Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata raised the issue of losses in certain group companies, and asked that Chandrasekaran commit in writing that Tata Sons will never be listed, *CNBC-TV18* reported on Tuesday, citing sources.

Several board members backed Chandrasekaran, arguing that losses at one group company should not eclipse the group's overall performance or the chair's contribution over the years, according to the report. While some directors called for a vote, Chandrasekaran urged a deferral, the report said.

Tata Trusts owns a 66% stake in Tata Sons, giving it power over major strategic decisions. Tata Sons, in turn, oversees 30 firms ranging from consumer goods, autos and airlines, including the likes of Jaguar \ Land Rover, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Air India.

The disagreement within Tata Trusts, more than a year after the death of family patriarch Ratan Tata, has raised fears of a repeat of a bitter 2016 public spat between the charity and Tata Sons that tarnished the reputation of India's most-storied group.

Founded in 1868 in Mumbai by Parsi industrialist Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, the Tata Group remained under the leadership of the Tata family until 2012, when Ratan Tata handed over the chairmanship to Cyrus Mistry of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group.

In 2016, tensions between Tata and Mistry led Tata Sons to remove Mistry as chairman. Mistry passed away in 2022, but his family's firm, Shapoorji Pallonji, continues to hold an 18% stake in Tata Sons.

Following Ratan Tata's death in 2024, his half-brother Noel Tata was appointed head of the Tata Trusts.

Over the past year, Chandrasekaran has faced a series of challenges, including intense regulatory scrutiny on Air India after a fatal crash, pricing pressure at crown-jewel Tata Consultancy Services, and a cyberattack at JLR.

ConvoZen unveils indigenous Agentic AI speech models

ZOE LIZ PHILIP
BENGALURU, DHNS

AI platform ConvoZen.AI on Tuesday unveiled an end-to-end Conversational AI Stack and AI Agents that are connected, context-aware and can perform non-scripted automation. It also showcased two indigenous frontier speech models built for Indian platforms — Akshara (speech-to-text) and Ragini (text-to-speech).

Addressing the 2nd edition of the ConvoZen Conversational AI Summit, Akhil Gupta, Founder of NoBroker and Convozen.AI, said, "Contact services form the face of the company and conversations across a business need a single platform that the AI automation provides, to augment better learning of what the customer needs." While most conversational AI solutions operate as fragmented point tools, ConvoZen looks at integrating the full lifecycle into a single platform built on four agent layers — Conversational AI Agents, Copilot Agents (assisting human agents), Supervisor AI Agents (monitoring conversations for quality), and Customer 360 AI Agents. As two million conversations already take place using AI agents, 9% of topline revenue can be attributed to them, he specified.

Quoting a conversation with Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani, Gupta said voice AI was slowly emerging as the next UPI revolution in India, with the ability to reach Indians in over 100 different dialects.

Indian economy marked by stable, accelerating growth, says RBI Deputy Governor

MUMBAI, PTI: High, stable and accelerating growth, along with more predictable economic outcomes, have become the hallmarks of the Indian economy, RBI Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta has said.

Delivering the 14th Foundation Day Lecture of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) on February 20, she said the Indian economy's strong macroeconomic stability, policy consistency, and diversified demand base position it on a steadily improving growth trajectory.

"This is in contrast to a more modest economic promise of most-other emerging and developing economies, for they lack one or more of these enabling factors," she said.

India's economic growth has followed a trajectory of slow, but sure acceleration over the last four-and-a-half decades, significantly outperforming other major emerging market economies, she added.

While the growth rate averaged 5.7% during the 1980s, it improved to 5.8% in the following decade, and 6.3% and 6.6% during the decades of the 2000s and 2010s, respectively, and further to 7.7% during the last four years, she said.

Gupta emphasised that the growth has been accompanied by a dramatic improvement in macroeconomic indicators.

Inflation has moderated from nearly 10% in the 1990s, to below 5% in recent years, narrowing the inflation differential between India and advanced economies.

Similarly, she said, the decadal average CAD has remained within a moderate range, currently estimated at 0.75% of GDP over the last six years compared to the historical average of 1.4%. The acceleration in per capita income has been even faster than GDP growth, increasing nearly tenfold from $274 in 1981 to about $2,700 in 2024.

Quoting IMF forecasts, Gupta said the per capita income would reach $4,346 by 2030, aided by declining population growth and a rising working-age population.

State plans to develop defence electronics, avionics parks

BENGALURU, DHNS: Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil on Tuesday chaired meetings of the Vision Groups for Aerospace and Defence, Machine Tools, Auto/EV, and Green Energy sectors.

MB Patil

Speaking on the occasion, Patil said plans are under consideration to establish a dedicated 200-acre Defence Electronics Park and a 100-acre Avionics and Sensor Park. These projects will be implemented once the Special Investment Region comes into existence.

Karnataka is at the forefront of the aerospace and defence sectors in the country. He noted that Suzuki and Toyota are set to launch aerial taxi services in Japan by 2028, and that Bengaluru-based Sasmos is supplying electrical equipment for the project. Industrialists have suggested that similar 'fly-taxi' services could be introduced here by formulating an appropriate policy. "This will be examined seriously," he said.

The need to establish testing centres and Common Facility Centres for aerospace and defence industries also came up for discussion. He assured that these facilities would be provided. Suggestions were made to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the growth of these sectors. The state has already urged the Centre to approve Defence Corridor projects in the Bengaluru North-Kolar-Chikkaballapur and Dharawad-Vijayapura-Belagavi regions. Industrialists also pointed out the potential for a similar corridor between Bengaluru and Mysuru, he explained.

Top industrialists and their representatives attended the meeting.

Goyal's LAT Aerospace acquires Sharang Shakti

BENGALURU, DHNS: Zomato Founder Deepinder Goyal's LAT Aerospace has acquired Sharang Shakti, an early-stage defence robotics start-up based in Gurugram. Goyal said this is the first step toward building indigenous defence capabilities, alongside its long-term mission to develop next-generation civil aviation platforms in India.

Deepinder Goyal

In a post on X, Goyal said civil aviation and defence are often viewed as separate sectors. But the core technology stack is shared across autonomy, perception, sensing, navigation, guidance, and control systems.

"By bringing Sharang Shakti into LAT, we are building these capabilities in-house, from first principles, with the intent to deploy them across both defence and civil programs over time," he said.

6 GIGAWATTS OF GPUs

Meta, AMD agree to major AI chips deal

WASHINGTON, AFP

American tech giant Meta has reached an agreement to purchase millions of powerful AI chips from processor manufacturer AMD, in which it could become a major shareholder, the two companies announced on Tuesday.

The Facebook and Instagram giant is on a massive spending spree as it battles to keep up with Google, OpenAI and Microsoft in the generative AI race sparked by the release of ChatGPT in 2022.

Meta's deal with AMD comes only days after the company said it had agreed to deploy millions of processors over the next few years from AMD rival Nvidia.

The five largest US cloud and AI infrastructure providers — Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Oracle — have collectively committed to spending more than $650 billion on capital expenditure in 2026, nearly doubling 2025 levels.

AMD has committed to supplying Meta with up to 6 gigawatts worth of GPUs, chips fundamental to powering AI. AMD's stock jumped 6.5% at opening on Wall Street.

No dollar figure was provided in the joint communique, but the transactions represent a "double-digit" amount in billions of dollars, AMD CEO Lisa Su told analysts, according to Bloomberg.

"We're excited to form a long-term partnership with AMD to deploy efficient inference compute and deliver personal superintelligence," said Mark Zuckerberg, Founder and CEO of Meta. "I expect AMD to be an important partner for many years to come."

In addition, AMD issued Meta a financial option that can be converted to shares that would make the social media giant a major shareholder if the chip company hits certain performance benchmarks in the coming years.

The Meta deal follows other major AI partnerships AMD has been striking, as it seeks to gain ground on Nvidia, the AI chip powerhouse.

In October 2025, AMD and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI announced a similar multibillion-dollar partnership, with OpenAI committing to purchasing six gigawatts worth of AMD chips.

Meta's doubling-down on AI is seen by some investors as a riskier bet than that of other tech giants. Unlike Amazon, Microsoft, and Google, Meta does not have a cloud service and lacks a direct revenue stream tied to its AI investments. Meta says it benefits from AI through improved performance in its core digital ads business via better targeting.

Warner Bros weighing revised bid from Paramount Skydance

BENGALURU, REUTERS: Warner Bros Discovery on Tuesday said it was considering a new bid from Paramount Skydance, without disclosing the value of the deal, as the CBS owner makes a last-ditch effort to thwart Netflix from buying the coveted Hollywood studio.

The latest offer is higher than Paramount's previous bid of $30 per share in cash, or $108.4 billion including debt, for the whole of Warner Bros, a source told Reuters on Monday.

The offer followed a week of talks between the companies to address concerns that prompted the HBO parent to reject previous Paramount bids in favor of Netflix's $27.75 per share, or $82.7 billion, deal for its studio and streaming assets.

"The Netflix merger agreement remains in effect and the Board continues to recommend in favor of the Netflix transaction," Warner Bros said in a statement.

Final ticketed to regulate the crowd: KSCA

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

On a working Tuesday and despite the annual school exams in full flow, chants of "Karnataka", "Rahul" and "Smaran" continuously echoed around the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on the opening day of the first-ever Ranji Trophy final in the City.

"We started to come to the stadium as soon as the news was out and tried to ask the security if we could watch," a young fan said.

Considering the anticipation around the game, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) made seating arrangements to accomodate fans, setting up extra stands in the ground.

While the domestic games across the country have free entry for public, the final was ticketed with prices set at Rs 200 and Rs 100.

"It was not about the money, it was just about regulating the crowd and god forbid any further incidents. It was a precautionary step," KSCA secretary Santosh Menon said.

Karnataka police officials also came in large numbers and were employed around the stadium for security and precautionary measures.

The decision, however, did not go down well with some of the fans while some understood the call.

"It was wrong. We love sport. Usually it is free but asking Rs 200 for one day is not right. And if they ask us to pay, at least give good facilities. Chairs and just a shamiana under this hot sun is not good enough. The police officials also don't allow us to get water frequently," one fan said.

"I have watched for free in Chinnaswamy but I am paying here, which is disappointing," another said.

However, there were others who said it was an understandable decision due to the stampede during RCB's victory celebration in Bengaluru.

"It's okay, we understand that it was to control the crowd. If it was free, many would just come and create a ruckus. We saw what happened in Bengaluru and we don't need something like that again. This is fine. Happy cricket is in Hubballi."

Fans at the Rajnagar Stadium on Day 1 of Ranji Trophy final. DH PHOTO

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY FINAL

K'taka toil on sweltering day

Jammu & Kashmir finish at 284/2 to take Day 1 honours

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

On a slow moving opening day of the Ranji Trophy final between Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir here at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium, the batters were rewarded for their patience and punished for fishing outside the off stump.

The conditions were sizzling hot, and Karnataka were made to sweat buckets as Shubham Pundir (117 n.o., 221b, 12x4, 2x6) hit an attractive hundred to guide visitors to a satisfactory 284/2 in 87 overs.

It was a classic first-day domestic wicket with a little help for the seamers in the first hour and no encouragement for the spinners.

The batters could trust the bounce and confidently play through the line of the ball. And J&K made complete use of it.

At stumps, Shubham was alongside hard-hitting Abdul Samad (52 n.o., 67b, 5x4, 1x6), whose composure came to the fore while the Karnataka shoulders dropped. The pair stitched an unbroken 105-run stand, mixing caution with aggression.

Prasidh Krishna (2/36) was the pick of the bowlers for the hosts as he was quick and got the ball to swing. He also hit the deck hard and got the ball to jag off the surface, delivering a brilliant first spell (5-2-16-1) in the first hour.

The consistency paved way for his first wicket when he tempted Qamran Iqbal (6, 36b) to nick the ball that nipped away, straight to KL Rahul at second slip.

However, it was all J&K after that as Yawer Hassan (88,150b) and Shubham put behind their team's thoughts of missing two of their main players in Shubham Khajuria and Vanshaj Sharma due to injuries.

While Yawer unfurled some classy drives and cuts, he also showed a lot of patience, particularly to deliveries on the fourth stump.

Shubham, on the other hand, played shots with some limitations on the on-side and with flourish on the off.

They were as different as day and night, but both of them found success in their own ways during their 139-run partnership in 244 balls.

Yawer brought up his first first-class fifty in 77 balls, and his partner Shubham his fourth in 100 balls.

"Just trusting the process and putting in the work. Watch the ball and react accordingly. I was just playing positive cricket and playing my natural game. I did not have runs, but I was sure that it would happen, so this was the stage," Yawer said after the day's play.

While Yawer failed to convert his start into something big, Shubham carried on and scored his fourth first-class hundred off 186 deliveries with a six over long on off Shikhar Shetty (0/68).

Skipper Paras Dogra (9 retd hurt) walked in at four but never looked in fluent touch and appeared to be struggling against the short ball as well. He was struck on his neck by a rising delivery from Prasidh and then was hit on the left hand off Vyshak. The second blow left him grimacing in pain as he went off after seeking medical attention.

"Dogra is fine and he will bat tomorrow," Yawer said.

With the surface not offering much for the bowlers, short-pitched bowling was a priority for Karnataka, but the ploy was negated well by Jammu and Kashmir.

Shubham Pundir (right) remained 117 not out during a 100-plus stand with 50-up Abdul Samad on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy final against Karnataka in Hubballi on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

SCORE BOARD

JAMMU & KASHMIR (I Innings): Qamran Iqbal c Rahul b Prasidh 6 (36b, 1x4), Yawer Hassan c Rahul b Prasidh 88 (150b, 13x4), Shubham Pundir (batting) 117 (221b, 12x4, 2x6), Paras Dogra retd hurt 9 (48b, 1x4), Abdul Samad (batting) 52 (67b, 5x4, 1x6). Extras (W-2, B-2, LB-8) 12. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts, 87 overs) 284**.

Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Iqbal), 2-157 (Yawer).

Bowling: Vidyadhar Patil 16-0-66-0, Vyshak Vijaykumar 18-6-25-0, Prasidh Krishna 16-5-36-2, Shreyas Gopal 17-1-79-0, Shikhar Shetty 20-0-68-0.

'Hubballi gave me cricket, character'

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

One of the finest spinners to have come from Karnataka, Sunil Joshi's contribution to India and State cricket was recognised when the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) named the Pavilion Block at the Rajnagar Stadium in his honour.

KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad inaugurated the 'Sunil Joshi Pavilion' during the lunch break on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy final between Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir here on Tuesday.

The formal ceremony took place in the presence of his wife Ravneet, BCCI president Mithun Manhas and other KSCA office bearers and managing committee members.

"Gadag gave me birth, Hubballi gave me cricket and character," an emotional Joshi said.

"I would like to thank the KSCA president (Venkatesh) Prasad, Sujith (Somsundar) and Avinash (Vaidhya). I would also like to thank all the MC members and all the conveners. It gives immense pleasure to receive this honour. It really means a lot to me and my family."

Joshi appeared in 15 Tests and 69 ODIs, claiming 41 and 69 wickets respectively. A handy batter, he also scored 352 runs in Tests and 584 in ODIs. His most significant outing came in November 2000 when he struck a defiant 92 and claimed eight wickets for the match to help India to victory against Bangladesh.

In all, he appeared in 160 first-class matches and picked up a whopping 615 wickets.

Joshi said the honour would have a "true meaning" if it inspires youngsters from the region to take up the sport.

"If I could inspire one young cricketer today in the entire ground today, or in the next five days or the coming years, then this pavilion name will have a right meaning and true meaning to it."

Former India and Karnataka player Sunil Joshi poses with his wife Ravneet after the Pavilion Block at the Rajnagar Stadium in Hubballi was named after him. DH PHOTO/ GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

Australia outplay Indian women to win the 1st ODI

BRISBANE, PTI

Australia outplayed reigning world champions India in all departments to pick up a comfortable six-wicket win in the first Women's ODI here on Tuesday.

India put up an ordinary performance with the bat to be bowled out for 214 despite solid fifties from Smriti Mandhana (58 off 68) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (53 off 84).

Australia chased down the modest target with little difficulty following fifties from skipper Alyssa Healy (50 off 70), who is in the middle of her farewell series, and Beth Mooney (76 off 79).

Spinner Ashleigh Gardner was the standout bowler for the home team, returning figures of three for 33 in seven overs.

The multi-format series is now locked at 2-2 with India winning the preceding T20 series 2-1. Following the three-match ODI series, a one-off Test will be played in Perth at the end of which Healy will call time on her career.

Despite a drought-ending ICC title in November, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side still remains a work in progress and doesn't have the aura of the all-conquering Australian side.

The positive for India with the ball was the performance of left-arm spinner Shree Charani, who was rewarded with wickets of Phoebe Litchfield and Georgia Voll in successive balls in the 11th over.

India had won the toss and opted to bat at the Allan Border Field. With Kim Garth and Ellyse Perry out of the three-match series due to injuries, pacers Megan Schutt and Lucy Hamilton were called up to the Australian side at the 11th hour.

Australia's Beth Mooney (left) and Alyssa Healy hit half centuries during their successful chase against India in the first ODI in Brisbane. PTI FILE PHOTO

Brief scores: India: 214 all out in 48.3 overs (Smriti Mandhana 58, Harmanpreet Kaur 53, Kashvee Gautam 43; Megan Schutt 2-42, Ashleigh Gardner 3-33) lt to Australia: 217/4 in 38.2 overs (Alyssa Healy 50, Phoebe Litchfield 32, Beth Mooney 76, Annabel Sutherland 48 n.o.; Shree Charani 2-41). **Result:** Aus won by 6 wkts. **PoM:** Beth Mooney. **ODI series:** Aus lead 3-match series 1-0.
Next match: Feb 27 (Hobart).

Kaur Injured

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur sustained an injury during the match.

Kaur, who scored an 84-ball 53, didn't take the field when India tried to defend 214 against Australia.

While it is not known when she suffered the injury, a BCCI statement said it is a knee issue.

"Captain Harmanpreet Kaur has not taken the field in the second innings after sustaining an injury to her left knee while batting," the statement said. "The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring her progress."

Domestic runner Pooja caught in doping net

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian long-distance runner Pooja Aatmaram had made a nervous dash away from her Chaperone ahead of a scheduled in-competition dope test last year, revealed the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) as it handed her a reduced three-year ban for early admission of guilt.

The 30-year-old Pooja, who mostly competes in the 5000m and 10,000m events, had finished third in the Indian Grand Prix 2 in 2024 while representing Rajasthan, which remains her most noteworthy performance.

She was picked out for a dope test after winning the Indian Oil WNC Navy Half Marathon in Mumbai on November 23 last year.

"The Athlete was verbally notified of her selection for Testing immediately after she had finished the Race. The Athlete failed to sign the Doping Control Form (DCF) at the time of notification," the AIU said in its detailed judgement. "Following the verbal notification, the Athlete ran away from the Chaperone and into a crowd.

"The Race Director then attempted to contact here over phone but the AIU said she did not respond. No Sample was ultimately collected from the Athlete."

KSRA secy set to resign as members reject contentious amendments

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

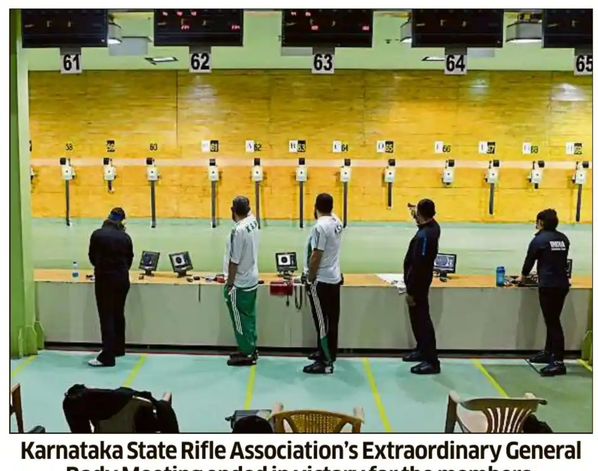
In what could be termed as a big win for the life members, the Karnataka State Rifle Association's Extraordinary General Body Meeting (EGM), held on February 22 to bring changes to its Memorandum and bye-laws, ended with most of the proposals being rejected with overwhelming majority.

The meeting, which lasted more than three hours with around 200 members in attendance, reportedly witnessed chaotic scenes, eventually forcing KSRA secretary G Susheel, who had convened the EGM, and joint secretary Praveen S offering to resign from their posts "in due course."

In a text message to *DH*, Susheel confirmed: "We announced we will be resigning in due course."

This was after several members cited the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) bye-law 3 (j) which states: 'No person shall be eligible to become or continue as a member in any category, if he/she and or his/her spouse is or becomes a dealer of arms and/or ammunition.'

"With Susheel owning an armoury and Praveen's wife being an arms dealer and manufacturer, they are clearly violating NRAI's bye-laws," claimed Rajesh Manpat, a life member and shooter, while talking to *DH*.



Karnataka State Rifle Association's Extraordinary General Body Meeting ended in victory for the members.

"After voting against the proposed changes, we also voted in majority for the two (Susheel and Praveen) to step down from their positions after they made disclosures of their associations with armoury business.

The general body asked both of them to conclude the EGM (on Sunday) and proceed with the resignations in the next managing committee meeting."

Held on the pretext of ensuring KSRA's compliance with the new National sports code that came into effect in January this year, the members accused that the meeting had been called to hand voting powers to only district associations while striping life members (more than 1,500 in number) of the same right to elect members to the Managing Committee.

Another proposed amendment which stated that the maximum age of office bearers -- president, secretary general and treasurer -- to be increased to 75 years from 70, also got rejected with status quo being maintained.

The minimum age of 35 years as eligibility to be on the athletes' commission was instead voted to be set at 25. The formation of a third vice-president, with two already among the 15-member committee, was also rejected.

Arrived for Calcutta St. Leger

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Arrived, from the stables of Adhirajsingh Jodha and to be ridden by Antony Raj, is likely to dominate the finish in the small field of four runners in the fray for the Calcutta St. Leger, the feature event of races to be run over a distance of four-teen furlongs on Wednesday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. Silver Handicap - 1200M: Astral Gold 1, A Wink Annda Smile 2, Lahina 3.
2. Eastern Air Command Cup - 1400M: Cigar Galaxy 1, Enchanting 2, Conjurer 3.
3. Indian Air Force Cup - 1400M: Eleanora 1, Fable 2, Abhicandra 3.
4. Rasalas Handicap - 1400M: Grenoble 1, Surprise Fantasy 2, Marcolini 3.
5. Mossy Bear Handicap - 1200M: Cortado 1, Blinky Bill 2, Sir Winston 3.
6. Calcutta St. Leger - 2800M: Arrived 1, Gold Empire 2.
7. Alterio Cup - 1400M: Sea Eagle 1, Victorious Omen 2, Hermod 3.
Day's best: Cigar Galaxy. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **I treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II treble:** 5, 6, 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 WC: New Zealand vs Sri Lanka **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

Ranji Trophy Final: K'taka vs J&K **(day 2, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel**, **JioHotstar**.

1st Women's T20I: New Zealand vs Zimbabwe **(11:45 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**.

FOOTBALL

Champions League (play-offs Leg-2): Atalanta vs Borussia Dortmund **(11:15 pm)**, Juventus vs Galatasaray, Paris vs AS Monaco, Real Madrid vs Benfica **(all 1:30 am, Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV**.

HOCKEY

Pro League: Australia vs India **(2 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

Giving Sachin out was a mistake, admits Bucknor after 22 years

NEW DELHI, PTI: More than two decades after making what was then widely seen as a "dreadful" decision against Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, legendary umpire Steve Bucknor **(in pic)** has finally expressed regrets and accepted that "it was a mistake."

Bucknor, who retired in 2009, was one of the most respected umpires in world cricket for over two decades. However, he did a make a few contentious calls involving Tendulkar, the most shocking being an LBW dismissal during an India-Australia Test match at Brisbane's Gabba 22 years ago.

In an interview with the West Indies Cricket Umpires' Association, when Bucknor was asked about one of the most difficult decisions he had to live with as an umpire, he said, "Giving Sachin Tendulkar out leg before wicket, and it's a matter of knowing that it was a mistake, but until this day, every day, people talk about it.

"Why did I give him out? Was he out and so on? But then in life, mistakes happen. I have accepted that it was a mistake, and life goes on."

In that match at Gabba in the 2003-04 series, Tendulkar was given out LBW by Bucknor following a loud appeal from Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie and his team-mates.

Tendulkar had attempted to leave the ball, which struck him high on the pads, but Bucknor was convinced by the Australian appeal.

Sesko strikes in Man United's win

LIVERPOOL, AFP: Benjamin Sesko came off the bench to fire Manchester United up to fourth in the Premier League with a 1-0 win at Everton to extend Michael Carrick's unbeaten start in charge of the Red Devils.

Sesko is yet to start in Carrick's six games but has hit top form since Ruben Amorim was sacked in last month. The Slovenian, who scored just twice in his first 22 appearances after a £74 million ($100 million) move from RB Leipzig, has netted six goals in his last seven games.

Victory lifts United three points clear of Chelsea and Liverpool in the battle for a place in next season's Champions League. Everton, meanwhile have now failed to win in seven home games.
Results: Everton: 0 lt to Manchester United: 1 (Sesko 71st).

Struggling Juve face a stiff climb

MADRID, AGENCIES

Italian giant Juventus will need a comeback when they host Galatasaray on Wednesday after losing 5-2 in the first leg of the UEFA Champions League play-offs in Turkey.

Luciano Spalleti-coached Juventus have been struggling, though, and is coming off a 2-0 loss at home to Como that hurt their hopes of Champions League qualification next season. It was Juventus' third straight defeat across all competitions and their fifth game in a row without a win.

Meanwhile both defending European champion Paris Saint-Germain and Monaco won in the French league this weekend ahead of their second leg in Paris on Wednesday. Monaco's 3-2 victory over Lens allowed PSG to regain the French league lead with a 3-0 win against Metz. PSG came back from two goals down against Monaco to win the first leg 3-2. Désiré Doue, who scored twice against Monaco, also found the net in the win against Metz.

Juventus coach Luciano Spalletti is under pressure after the club lost last three games. AFP FILE PHOTO

PSG coach Luis Enrique, however, will have to consider if he can play his star defender Achraf Hakimi or not as the key player in their Champions League-winning side last season is to stand trial charged with raping a young woman, his lawyer and a French prosecutor told AFP on Tuesday.

In February 2023, a woman then aged 24 told police in Val-De-Marne southeast of Paris that Hakimi had raped her.

The 27-year-old Moroccan international, who played a pivotal role in Morocco becoming the first African and Arab side to reach the World Cup semi-finals when they made the last four in 2022, denies any wrongdoing.

Also in focus in Real Madrid-Benfica match for the Vinicius Junior racism row. Real coach Alvaro Arbeloa on Tuesday called on European football governing body UEFA to make their fight against racism into more than just a slogan after the alleged abuse of Vinicius.

UEFA has already provisionally suspended Benfica midfielder Gianluca Prestianni for Wednesday's Champions League play-off second leg against Real Madrid after Vinicius accused him of racial abuse in the first leg last week.

If UEFA find Prestianni, who argued with the Brazilian while holding his shirt over his mouth, abused Vinicius at the end of their investigation into the incident he will be suspended for a minimum of 10 matches.

"We have great opportunity to mark a turning point in the fight against racism," Arbeloa told reporters. "UEFA, which has always been and has led this fight against racism, now has the chance not to leave it at just a slogan, at just a nice banner before matches, and I hope that they seize this opportunity."

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir (right) discusses a point with Tilak Varma during a practice session in Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

Abhishek does heavy workout against off-spinners

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Smarting from the stinging defeat against South Africa in their opening Super Eights game of the ICC T20 World Cup, the Indians hit the ground running at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Tuesday ahead of their must-win clash versus Zimbabwe.

After a routine warm-up session under lights at Chepauk, the two wicketkeepers Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson, and the under-fire Tilak Varma and captain Suryakumar Yadav were the first set of batters to hit the 'nets'.

While Kishan and Samson, who lost his place in the playing XI to the former owing to poor form, faced Arshdeep Singh and a bunch of local net bowlers, Varma and Suryakumar dealt with spinners comprising Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel and Abhishek Sharma. Both Varma and Suryakumar, who have been criticised for failing to up the ante in the middle overs, focused more on playing the big shots.

With Abhishek, who's had a miserable tournament with three ducks and a highest score of 15, just bowling for the opening hour, all eyes were on when the opener would pad up. The 25-year-old did in the second batch of batters along with Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube.

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak oversaw Abhishek for the entirety of his 'nets' stint. The southpaw faced a lot of off-spinners, who have been troubling not just him but a lot of his fellow left-handers with the natural away going deliveries.

Samson, who could return to the playing XI for the game against Zimbabwe on Thursday, had a long session where the pacers often targeted his rib area. The right-hander, barring the odd moments of discomfort, dealt with them nicely.

Rinku back home

Lower middle-order batter Rinku Singh has flown back home for a 'family emergency' and his availability for the remaining two Super Eight matches is uncertain at the moment.

It has been reliably learnt that the 28-year-old Uttar Pradesh southpaw, a surprise pick for the World Cup, left for Greater Noida on Tuesday morning after a close family member was admitted to a hospital.

The right-arm quick has been Men in Blue's go-to bowler

BUMRAH - India's BLUE CHIP STOCK

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a tournament where the reputation of some talented youngsters has taken a beating with questions raised about their temperament and technique, the irrepressible Jasprit Bumrah is yet again walking away with his halo enhanced by millions of lumens.

Playing in his fourth ICC T20 World Cup, the 32-year-old fast bowler has led the Indian attack exceptionally well to show why he's considered one of the best practitioners — or rather the best — of his craft across formats right now.

Barring his maiden T20 World Cup in 2016 at home where he could bag just four wickets in five matches and conceded 7.65 runs an over, Bumrah has become India's 'Mr Dependable' in the subsequent events with excellent performances.

In the Covid-hit 2021 edition in the Middle East, by which time the Ahmedabad-born Punjabi had already risen to become India's numero uno bowler, Bumrah shone by bagging seven wickets in five matches but most importantly his economy was a frugal 5.08.

Bumrah missed the next edition in Australia owing to a career-threatening back stress fracture and India felt his absence in the semifinal where eventual champions England chased down a target of 169 with 10 wickets and four overs to spare. Sometimes the value of a player in a team sport is felt more by his absence than presence and that match was a case in point where Jos Buttler and Alex Hales staged an all-out assault. None, including the experienced trio of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami and R Ashwin, could contain the damage.

Bumrah was back for the 2024 edition in the Americas and he was one of the main architects of India's second title triumph. In eight matches, he bagged 15 wickets at a scarcely unbelievable economy rate of 4.17. The script is no different this World Cup too with Bumrah operating at a different level as compared to the others. In four games so far — he missed the opening clash vs United States of America owing to illness — he's got 7 wickets at an economy of 5.3.

As the premier bowler, he always opens the attack and more often than not delivers on both the counts — be it picking early wickets and ensuring the rival batters don't get off to a blazing start in the Power Play where only two fielders are allowed outside the 30-yard circle.

Not just at the beginning but Bumrah is the go-to man at the death for an Indian captain. Unleashing his potent cocktail of unplayable yorkers, off-cutters, faster ones and bouncers, Bumrah rarely gives away boundaries. There are hardly any loose balls and a batter will have to produce something extraordinary or rely on luck like edges to score a boundary. In essence, Bumrah's four overs in a game is like a blue chip stock with guaranteed returns irrespective of how volatile the market is.

Take the opening Super Eights game versus South Africa against whom India lost by a whopping 76 runs that has put their semifinal hopes on the edge. He conceded just 15 runs in four overs and bagged three wickets while the next best economy rate by an Indian bowler was 7 (Arshdeep Singh).

Given the advancements in video technology and artificial intelligence, oppositions would have come prepared on how to cope with Bumrah. But every time a batter tries to take him on, the success is just limited to an odd boundary. The end result is the long walk back to the pavilion and the sight of Bumrah smiling at having outfoxed another one. How Bumrah is able to deliver game after game, series after series, World Cups after World Cups is beyond belief. At the playground where the best in the world assemble, he remains a mark above. He's in a league of his own, an extraordinary one at that.

Whether it's the power play or middle phase or the slog overs, Jasprit Bumrah's effectiveness remains consistent. PTI

Jasprit Bumrah in T20Is

	M	W	BBI	Avg	E	SR
Overall	91	114	3/7	18.27	6.49	16.8
2016 T20 WC	5	4	1/15	38.25	7.65	30
2021 T20 WC	5	7	2/10	13.57	5.08	16
2024 T20 WC	8	5	3/7	8.26	4.17	11.8
2026 T20 WC*	4	7	3/15	9.85	5.3	11.1

India's chances in jeopardy after WI's massive win vs Zim

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

India's massive defeat against South Africa in their opening Super Eights Group 1 game of the ICC T20 World Cup on Sunday, coupled with West Indies' even more brutal take-down of Zimbabwe a day later, has left the semifinal hopes of the Men In Blue in serious jeopardy.

The defending champions now have to beat both Zimbabwe and West Indies, but even that won't guarantee a last-four ticket in the marquee event because of the massive run-rate advantage both the Caribbeans and Proteas enjoy.

A sliver of hope for the defending champions is for South Africa to beat both West Indies and Zimbabwe. That would turn India's match against West Indies in Kolkata on March 1 into a virtual quarterfinal as both would be on two points. This, assuming India beat Zimbabwe in Chennai on Thursday.

But, if the two-time champions West Indies beat South Africa in Ahmedabad in a 3.00 pm affair on Thursday, then it could spell doom for India. In that eventuality, they will have to beat both Zimbabwe and West Indies by massive margins to lift their current net run rate (-3.800) at the moment. If that doesn't happen, West Indies, with an NRR of +5.350, will all but guarantee themselves a place in the semifinal with a simple win over South Africa.

Another possibility for India to make the knockout cut is hope South Africa lose their games against West Indies and Zimbabwe (March 1, 3.00 pm).

That would mean India have to just win both their remaining bouts. A tense few days ahead for Suryakumar Yadav and Co.

SUPER 8s GROUP 1

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
West Indies	1	1	0	0	2	5.35
South Africa	1	1	0	0	2	3.80
India	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**-3.80**
Zimbabwe	1	0	1	0	0	-5.35

Suryakumar Yadav & Co will need massive stroke of luck to advance to the knockouts. PTI

Brook takes England into semis

Pak's qualification hopes take a massive hit after losing a close encounter

PALLEKELE, PTI

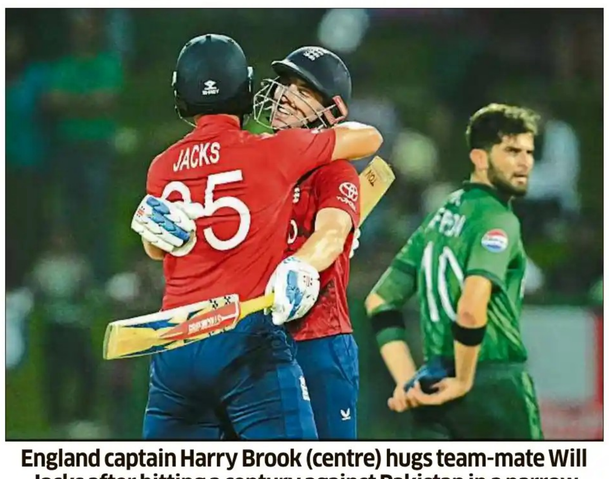
Skipper Harry Brook played the most defining innings of his T20 career, smashing a 51-ball 100 to propel England into the semifinals of the T20 World Cup with a narrow two-wicket victory over Pakistan.

Chasing a target of 165 on a slightly difficult surface, England were 35 for 3 and then 58 for 4 before Brook almost singlehandedly carried them through with the two-time champions winning it with five balls to spare.

Brook's innings was not only his best individual score in T20Is but also the highest by an England skipper in the history of the T20 World Cups. England have now reached their fifth straight T20 World Cup semi-final and first to qualify in the current edition.

Brook, batting at No. 3 for the first time, showed admirable cricketing smarts during an innings that had 10 fours and four sixes as he picked his battles with precision.

He did not take any undue risks against Usman Tariq (2/31 in 4 overs) and stood tall even as Shaheen Shah Afridi (4/30) wreaked havoc in his opening spell, claiming three wickets.



England captain Harry Brook (centre) hugs team-mate Will Jacks after hitting a century against Pakistan in a narrow two-wicket victory in the Super 8s of the T20 World Cup in Pallekele on Tuesday. AFP

Brook completed his maiden T20I century with a six and a chipped boundary over mid-off before getting bowled trying to go for third big hit against Afridi. By then, he had ensured a last four berth for England and received a warm handshake from the Pakistan pacer.

The hallmark of Brook's innings was how he attacked spinners Saim Ayub, Mohammed Nawaz and Shadab Ahmed. The footwork -- both front and back, was immaculate and he made full use of the big ground, running 13 twos after pushing the ball to the vacant areas in the deep.

Brook teed off with a 17-run over off left-arm spinner Nawaz which included a six and couple of boundaries. The shot of the match certainly will be the inside out slash that sailed over cover and point. The turn of wrist was deliberate and the shot breathtaking.

While mystery spinner Tariq got Tom Banton, Pakistan skipper Salman Ali suddenly got Shahdab Ahmed back into the attack whom Brook promptly dispatched down the ground.

Tariq came for his second spell and once again got rid of Sam Curran, England were 103 for 5 but Brook found an able ally in Will Jacks (28 off 23 balls) as they added 52 in 5.1 overs.

The match as a contest was over in Tariq's final over when he bowled one bad half tracker which was pulled over square leg fence and got a boundary off the next ball putting the bowler on his haunches.

Once Brook fell, Nawaz got Jacks and Jamie Overton but Jofra Archer pulled the first ball off Salman Mirza's final over for a boundary to take England into the last four stage.

Agha's captaincy left a lot to be desired as a spinner like Saim Ayub would have troubled tail-enders way more.

Earlier, Sahibzada Farhan continued his fine form with yet another half-century as Pakistan scored a competitive 164 for 9 on a sluggish surface.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 164/9 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 63, Babar Azam 25, Fakhar Zaman 25; Jofra Archer 2-32, Jamie Overton 2-26, Liam Dawson 3-24) lt to England: 166/8 in 19.1 overs (Harry Brook 100, Will Jacks 28; Shaheen Afridi 4-30, Mohammad Nawaz 2-26, Usman Tariq 2-31). **Results:** England won by 2 wkts. **PoM:** Harry Brook.

SUPER 8s GROUP 2

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
England (Q)	2	2	0	0	4	1.49
New Zealand	1	0	0	1	1	0.00
Pakistan	2	0	1	1	1	-0.46
Sri Lanka	1	0	1	0	0	-2.55

Pak in final? Kolkata, A'bad ticket holders will be refunded

DUBAI, PTI: Tickets for the T20 World Cup semifinals and final went on sale on Tuesday, with the ICC announcing that Pakistan's appearance in either match will result in a full refund for ticket holders who booked for the Kolkata (semifinal) or Ahmedabad (final) games.

There will also be a refund in case Sri Lanka qualify and play their semi-final against any other team apart from India.

The tickets went on sale at 7pm IST.

Fans will be able to secure seats for the first semifinal on March 4, the second semifinal on March 5 and the final on March 8.

The first semifinal remains a floating venue arrangement with the match to be held either at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo or the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, while the second semifinal will take place at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

If Pakistan qualify for the last four stage, they will play in semifinal 1 in Colombo on March 4. If Pakistan fail to make the knockouts, but Sri Lanka qualify and play anyone other than India, then the islanders will play in semifinal 1 in Colombo.

Lanka hope to flutter past Kiwis in a survival bid

COLOMBO, PTI: Sri Lanka will need to improve their batting against slower bowlers when they take on New Zealand in a must-win Super Eight game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

The home team batters failed to chase a below par 147 against England on a slow turner in Pallekele. The pitches in Sri Lanka have been tougher for batting compared to co-hosts India and the trend is likely to continue at the Premadasa where bigger boundaries make six-hitting difficult.

Dasun Shanaka

LIVE @ 7.00PM

Some of the shot selection was questioned following the heavy loss in the Super Eight opener and Sri Lanka will need to learn from their mistakes.

"It's a T20 game, so obviously you come into a game, so you are looking to score as many runs as you can. So when the ball is not coming on to the bat, it's easier said than done," Sri Lanka's Indian batting coach Vikram Rathour reflected on the side's poor performance. "Are there better options? Yes, definitely could have been taken. I thought on a wicket where the ball is stopping, so pushing is not a great idea. A couple of our wickets lost out on guys pushing for a single. I don't think that was a great option in these conditions," he added.

While batting has been led by Pathum Nissanka, left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage has been impressive with the ball. To be fair, even the pacers have delivered thus far in the competition.

New Zealand, who had to share a point with Pakistan following the wash-out at Premadasa, too have good spinners in their ranks including captain Mitchell Santner.

With rain unlikely, both teams would be pushing for their first win of the Super Eight stage.

New Zealand's opening duo of Finn Allen and Tim Seifert showed ominous form during the league stage and would be looking to extend that run.

Sexual harassment allegations rock Italian cricket

NEW DELHI, PTI: Days after making a historic debut at the T20 World Cup, Italy cricket has been rocked by sexual harassment allegations by a women's team player against women's cricket co-ordinator Prabath Ekneligoda, who has been suspended by the nation's cricket board, the Federazione Cricket Italiana (FCRI) informed.

According to a statement released by FCRI, the allegations are the subject of an investigation by the federal prosecutor.

"The Federation confirms that, during 2025, the President of the federation acting within her institutional responsibilities and with the full safeguarding of the athletes and other parties involved in mind, ordered the immediate precautionary suspension of the individual concerned from all federal duties and activities," ESPN Cricinfo quoted the board as saying in a statement.

"This measure was adopted pending a thorough and definitive assessment of the circumstances. The decision was taken as a prudent and responsible step, aimed at preventing any undue speculation, preserving the integrity of the sporting environment."

Full-strength DYES FC avoid relegation

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL FOOTBALL

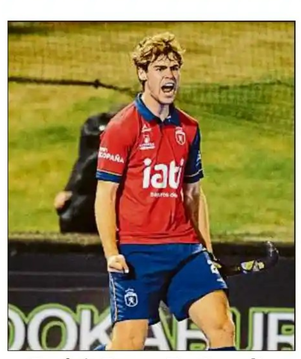
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports FC (DYES FC) avoided relegation on the penultimate of the BDFA A Division League Championship as the State government side defeated Roots FS 2-0 in their last league match.

DYES, who showed up with Mohammed Masood as their coach following the resignation of Shanthi S, finally fielded a full team in the victory as they finished 12th on the points table with 10 points in 14 matches while Real Chikkamagaluru (8 pts) and Jawahar Union (6) were relegated to B division.

Goals from Mohammad Niyab (7th minute) and Bharth Gowda S (30th) kept them afloat in the division for the next season.

Roots, on the other hand, finished 11th with 15 points.

Results: A Division: DYES FC: 2 (Mohammad Niyab 7th, Bharth Gowda S 30th) bt Roots FS: 0; Bangalore Eagles FC: 4 (Vinod B 10th, Rechanso Shimrah 76th, 82nd, Seigoulen Kipgen 90+3rd) bt Jawahar Union FC: 2 (Dhanush Kumar 26th, 42nd); FC Deccan: 3 (Hijam Sanathoi Singh 61st, Aimso Chithung 64th, 70th) bt Blitz FC: 2 (Mirunal Gowda 11th, 40th).
B Division: Group A: MD Sporting FC: 4 (Zeal K Rymbal 40th, Thangjam Santhosh 44th, 53rd, 59th) bt ADE FC: 1 (Huidrom Chingkhei Singh 47th P).



Spain's Bruno Font exults after scoring the equaliser against India in Hobart on Tuesday. X

Indians squander lead again to go down to Spain

HOBART, PTI

India's dismal run in the FIH Men's Pro League saw them go down 3-4 in a shootout against Spain after a tense 1-1 draw in regulation time here on Tuesday.

Despite holding a 1-0 advantage until the 59th minute, courtesy a brilliant strike from Maninder Singh, India conceded a late equaliser when Spain's Bruno Font found the net to take the match into the shootout.

Spain started strongly, controlling early possession and testing the Indian defence. They won their first penalty corner in the fourth minute, but the drag flick was comfortably saved by Indian goalkeeper Mohith.

Spain thought they had taken the lead in the eighth minute but Jose Basterra's goal was disallowed. Shrugging off the pressure, India earned a penalty corner in the 14th minute but Amit Rohidas's drag flick was denied by Spanish goalkeeper Luis Calzado, keeping the first quarter goalless.

The breakthrough arrived in the 19th minute when skipper Hardik Singh dispossessed a Spanish player, turned brilliantly, and set up Maninder who smashed a tomahawk into the net to give India a 1-0 lead.

Spain immediately responded by winning a penalty corner but Pepe Cunill's shot was saved by Suraj Karkera.

Karkera pulled off another stunning save moments later to deny Basterra. Striker Abhishek also came close after a superb dribble, but failed as India held on to their slender 1-0 lead at halftime.

Result: India: 1 (Maninder Singh 19th) lt to Spain: 1 (Bruno Font 59th) in shootout in 3-4.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com